

# Chamber welcomes Budget plans, urges focus on execution

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The T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce is acknowledging the inclusion of several of its key policy recommendations in the 2026 Budget, but is emphasising that the fiscal package's success will depend on timely and transparent implementation.

In its post-Budget statement, the chamber underscored that while the Budget signals a renewed commitment to diversification, food security, digitalisation, and improving the ease of doing business, the real test will lie in how effectively the measures are executed.

It stressed that implementation, not promises, will determine whether T&T can attract investment, stimulate exports, and deliver meaningful job creation.

“The focus areas are right. What matters now is delivery,” the chamber noted, urging close coordination between government agencies and the private sector.

Among the most significant measures highlighted by the chamber is the planned investment in agriculture and food production, which it said was crucial to improving national food security and reducing import dependence. The chamber also pointed to support for the creative and marine industries, reforms to tax and customs administration, and the establishment of an export academy to strengthen non-energy exports.

The academy, to be developed in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), is viewed as a major step toward creating globally competitive exporters. The chamber said this initiative, coupled with modernised customs systems and simplified trade procedures, could help reposition T&T as a regional export hub, provided bureaucratic bottlenecks are removed.

The chamber also noted the Budget's focus on digital transformation and ease of doing business, saying greater use of technology across public services will reduce inefficiency and enhance transparency.

It added that predictable regulatory processes and faster decision-making remain vital to improving investor confidence.

However, the chamber stressed that good ideas alone are not enough. “While the Budget sets a positive direction, effective implementation will be critical to achieving results,” it stated.

The chamber reaffirmed its readiness to collaborate with the Government, international partners, and local stakeholders to ensure the announced measures translate into real, sustainable outcomes.