

Riley resigns from RFHL



Former RFHL director, Robert Riley

Another director from Republic Financial Holdings Ltd (RFHL) has resigned.

Retired business executive, Robert Riley, has become the latest director to tender his resignation.

Riley's resignation was announced yesterday in a material news notice which was posted on the T&T Stock Exchange.

It was effective as of December 6.

Riley's resignation as a director of the largest publicly owned financial services company in the region is the fourth in just over two months.

The three other resigning RFHL directors are attorney Jason Mootoo, who resigned from the RFHL board, effective November 21; financial advisor Waltnel Sosa, who resigned as an RFHL director effective October 7; and business owner Shameer Ronnie Mohammed, who resigned as a director effective October 3.

The current administration's desire to take control of the board of RFHL was signalled by Minister of Finance, Davendranath Tancoo, in delivering the 2026 budget on October 13.

"We have installed new boards at First Citizens Bank and the Eximbank, and we will move to install a majority of directors at Republic Bank Ltd," Tancoo said.

The indication of the government's intention was confirmed in RFHL's 2025 annual report, which was also posted on the company's website.

For its 2025 financial year, which ran from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025, RFHL had 12 directors. Those directors were: Vincent Pereira (chairman); Nigel Baptiste; Ian Benjamin; Dawn Callender; Shameer Mohammed; Michael Noel; Robert Riley; Waltnel X Sosa; Kristine Thompson; Jason Mootoo; Robert Wickham and Colin Soo Ping Chow.

Of the 12 directors, Kristine Thompson retires from the board at the annual meeting, which is scheduled for December 15, but will not offer herself for re-election.

RFHL chairman Vincent Pereira is likely to resign from the board at the annual meeting on December 15, as he has turned 70, which is the age limit for the bank's directors.

Pereira was appointed chairman of RFHL and Republic Bank Ltd in 2020.

He joined the Republic Group in July 2019 as a member of the board of Republic Bank Ltd and is the immediate past president of BHP T&T.

He also served as the chairman of Atlantic LNG.

In December 2023, Peter Inglefield retired from the board.

Inglefield was first appointed a director in 2020, chaired RFHL's audit subcommittee and served as a member of the Enterprise Risk subcommittee.