

T&T must pay for Dragon gas, warns Venezuela VP



Venezuela Vice President Delcy Rodriguez AP PHOTO

RAPHAEL JOHN-LALL

Freelance Contributor Venezuela Vice President Delcy Rodriguez is warning that the United States is “deceiving” Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar over the new licence for exploration of the Dragon gas field.

Speaking during the Venezuela Productiva 2025 Business Expo forum in Caracas yesterday, Rodriguez made it clear that T&T must pay for Venezuela’s gas.

“The Prime Minister is heading off a cliff by believing that (US Secretary of State) Marco Rubio can give them Venezuelan gas. They have to pay for Venezuelan gas, any molecule exported has to be paid for; that’s international cooperation, those are natural trade relations,” Rodriguez said.

She stressed that all of Venezuela’s gas must be paid for in accordance with international cooperation and trade agreements and solely through Venezuela’s Bolivarian government.

She added, “They (the Americans) are deceiving them (T&T) and they are going to leave them hanging. It is not Marco Rubio but Venezuela who will give you the gas you need, T&T.”

She also indirectly threatened T&T, cautioning that this country’s economy will “collapse” if Venezuela does not conclude a deal with Port-of-Spain.

“If Venezuela doesn’t export gas to Trinidad, that country’s economy will collapse and it will impact the Caribbean. Marco Rubio is selling pregnant birds to the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.”

On a trip to the United States in early October, Persad-Bissessar met with Rubio and was assured the US Treasury Department would issue a new Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) licence to

explore the Dragon gas field on condition that the Nicolas Maduro regime does not benefit.

Rubio acknowledged the significance of the Dragon gas plan to T&T's economic prosperity and regional stability, noting that US support would include steps to safeguard the project's implementation.

Just last week, Rodriguez criticised Persad-Bissessar, saying that the death of two T&T fishermen during US airstrikes off Venezuela was a "self-fulfilling prophecy," as it is T&T which had chosen to ally itself with the United States.