

Quamina resigns as TPHL chairman

MICHAEL Quamina has resigned as the chairman of Trinidad Petroleum Holdings Ltd (TPHL) and two of its subsidiaries.

Quamina was appointed TPHL chairman in August 2019.

TPHL is responsible of managing Trinidad and Tobago's oil and related assets.

Its four subsidiaries are Heritage Petroleum Company Ltd, Paria Fuel Trading Company Ltd, Guaracara Refining Company Ltd, and the Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago (Petrotrin).

Quamina served as chairman of TPHL, Petrotrin, and Guaracara.

TPHL is currently engaged in discussions with Nigerian energy company, Oando, with respect to the lease of the Guaracara refinery.

However, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar had stated on the campaign trail that the United National Congress-led Coalition of Interests would not honour any agreements made by the outgoing People's National Movement (PNM) administration concerning the refinery.

In his resignation letter dated yesterday, Quamina said serving at TPHL's chairman has been a 'distinct honour and privilege'.

As he prepared to demit office, Quamina expressed his 'admiration, appreciation, and gratitude' to all members of the TPHL staff.

'This journey has been exiting and fulfilling, and you have all been amazing travel companions through the ups and downs, highs and lows, the good times and even the challenging ones,' he said.

'Do not ever forget that you are a member of a strong and important organisation that, in whatever form it may take, plays a pivotal role in shaping our nation's future,' he stated.

Quamina said working with TPHL was a 'true privilege' and expressed pride in its accomplishments—none of which, he noted, would have been possible without the staff's 'unwavering dedication and sterling contribution.'

'Thank you, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours,' he stated.

Quamina, an attorney for former prime minister Dr Keith Rowley, was appointed Senior Counsel in 2023.

Quamina's resignation follows the resignation of Sahid Hosein as chairman of the National Petroleum Marketing Co Ltd on Tuesday.

Speaking to the *Express*, Hosein said that as a 'stickler for protocol', he believed stepping down was the right thing to do following the United National Congress' victory in Monday's general election.

Hosein had been appointed NP's chairman in 2015 following the People's National Movement's victory at the polls.

'It has been a pleasure serving and guiding the fortunes of the company and its employees as its chairman for the past nine years plus alongside some very committed and experienced fellow directors,' Hosein stated in the resignation.

'I know our efforts have put the institution on a positive path. I take this opportunity to thank the management and staff for the support over the past and to wish all best wishes for a great future,' he stated.

Contacted by the *Express* to confirm if he had indeed resigned, Hosein said as a 'political appointee' it was the 'right thing to do'.

'When an administration changes then protocol demands that you allow the incoming administration to insert those people that they want and not have to ask you to resign,' Hosein said.

Hosein previously served as member of Parliament for Siparia from 1991 to 1995 under the UNC.

He was later replaced by Kamla Persad-Bissessar, who has held the seat ever since. Persad-Bissessar secured another victory on Monday night, winning

re-election in Siparia and earning her second term as Prime Minister.

Hosein was also the Local Government representative for the St Patrick County Council from 1987-1991.

And from 2011 to 2015, Hosein was past president and vice president of the Penal Debe Chamber of Commerce.

Caribbean Airlines chairman Shameer 'Ronnie' Mohammed also earlier this week confirmed to staff he was stepping down. 'As I prepare to step down from my role as chairman of the board of directors, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each, and every one of you at Caribbean Airlines. It has been an incredible journey working alongside such a dedicated and passionate group of individuals,' Mohammed said in a bulletin to staff.

'Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated achievements, and built a company that not only connects the Caribbean, but also provides a sense of pride and identity for our region.

'I am truly proud of what we have accomplished together, and I have every confidence that the future of Caribbean Airlines is bright,' he stated in the bulletin. Mohammed was appointed to the board of Caribbean Airlines in November 2016.