

T&T, St Kitts and Nevis Chambers sign alliance agreement

THE Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce (T& T Chamber) and the St Kitts and Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce signed a Trade and Business Development Alliance Agreement yesterday, aimed at strengthening regional economic ties.

The signing, which was conducted virtually, was led by T& T Chamber president Sonji Pierre-Chase, and president of the St Kitts and Nevis Chamber Trevor Blake.

Also present were Vashti Guyadeen, the chief executive officer of the T& T Chamber, and Sanya Alleyne, the executive director of the St Kitts and Nevis Chamber.

As active members of the Caribbean Chambers of Commerce (Caricham) network, both chambers view the alliance as a tangible demonstration of their commitment to regional integration and the strengthening of private sector cooperation across Caricom.

In a release from the T& T Chamber yesterday, Pierre-Chase said, 'This agreement with the St Kitts and Nevis Chamber is more than symbolic. It is a strategic partnership rooted in mutual respect and shared goals. St Kitts and Nevis has demonstrated strong leadership in regional tourism, financial services, and entrepreneurship, and we see immense potential for synergies in those areas. Through this alliance, we aim to foster direct business linkages, catalyse joint ventures, and deepen business relations that deliver tangible value to our members and contribute to the broader economic integration of the Caricom region.'

The trade alliance agreement outlines a structured framework for collaboration between the two chambers, to advance shared economic and social goals. Key areas of cooperation include:

joint initiatives to expand opportunities for businesses and communities in both countries
shared research and technical expertise in sectors such as tourism, financial services, agriculture, and renewable energy
collaborative research to evaluate trade feasibility and encourage cultural and commercial exchange
capacity-building and knowledge transfer programmes to enhance institutional and private sector capability
stronger linkages with government agencies, investment promotion bodies, and trade and development stakeholders
bilateral trade missions and business delegations aligned with the alliance's objectives
private sector contributions toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
identification and resolution of trade barriers and regulatory challenges through coordinated, solution-oriented efforts.

Blake welcomed the partnership as a critical step to enhance value for their members and said: 'As an institution, our ongoing focus has been on how we can add greater value to our membership. The signing of this agreement is a significant step

in that direction. Through this business alliance with the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, we are formalising a framework that allows us to work together in pursuit of mutual benefits. Everything we do should be for the benefit of our members.'

He added, 'In a developing environment like we are, a small developing country, being able to have a partner in a bigger, more developed Caribbean state... is a wonderful opportunity. I want to thank the T& T Chamber of Industry and Commerce for agreeing to work with us in this regard and to signing off on this alliance agreement today which we hope can be used for the benefit of our long-term membership.'

The release noted that this new partnership reflects a broader strategic effort to build a more integrated, resilient, and competitive regional private sector.

'By aligning priorities, sharing expertise, and working in close collaboration, the chambers hope to navigate global economic challenges more effectively and contribute meaningfully to regional prosperity,' it stated.