

Former UDeCOTT CEO appointed Heritage chairman

FORMER chief executive officer of the Urban Development Corporation of T&T (UDeCOTT) Kurt Ramlal has been appointed the chairman of the board of State-owned oil and gas company Heritage Petroleum Co Ltd, as the Government seeks to reverse declining onshore oil production.

Energy Minister Dr Roodal Moonilal confirmed the board appointments yesterday, noting that a formal statement will be issued by the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries.

The *Express* understands that the new board also includes Khalid Hassanali, Lincoln Dookhran, Ronnie Sookoo, Richard Hansraj, and Kamini Ramraj, in addition to Ramlal. The appointment follows Moonilal's recent comments at the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPETT)'s 2025 Mature Basin Energy Symposium, where he called for an aggressive drilling strategy to increase domestic oil output.

According to Moonilal, onshore production stood at 22,616 barrels of oil per day in 2015, falling to 18,005 barrels in 2020 and further falling to 17,000 barrels per day this year.

Moonilal attributed much of that decline to the Heritage Petroleum Company Ltd, which he said holds the largest onshore acreage and has seen the steepest production drops.

'This decline will continue unless urgent action is taken. Heritage, which has the largest onshore acreage, accounts for the majority of the decline in onshore oil production over the last five years.

'Notably, in 2015 the onshore production from then-Petrotrin stood at 21,387 barrels per day. In 2020, under Heritage, onshore production decreased to 10,264 barrels per day and experienced a further decline to 9,667 barrels per day in 2025; whereas its lease operators, enhanced production service contractors and farmout operators achieved a marginal increase in oil production over the same period,' Moonilal said.

The new Heritage board is expected to develop and execute a revitalisation strategy, with a clear mandate to stabilise and grow onshore production.