

Moonilal promises clarity on NGC board soon

ENERGY Minister Dr Roodal Moonilal has said the issues surrounding the composition of the National Gas Company's (NGC) board will be addressed, with a full slate of board members, including the chairman, to be announced in the coming days.

Moonilal made the comments during last week's post-Cabinet news conference held at the Red House in Port of Spain.

In recent weeks, concerns have mounted over the leadership of the State-owned energy company, particularly regarding uncertainty about who currently holds the chairmanship.

On June 5, NGC stated it was 'duly notified by Corporation Sole, of the appointment of Dr Randy Ramadhar Singh, as chairman of The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd'.

However, within weeks of his appointment, questions arose about whether Ramadhar Singh had been removed from the role.

Attorney Gerald Ramdeen has been named by some as the individual expected to replace him, though this has not been officially confirmed.

Additionally, Ramadhar Singh has been notably absent from recent public engagements.

He was not part of the NGC delegation to the Suriname Energy Oil and Gas Summit, nor was he present at the recent Brechin Castle Solar Farm site visit, which included several Cabinet members.

The Brechin Castle Solar Farm Project, managed by Lightsource bp on behalf of project owners Shell, bp, and NGC, is among the largest renewable energy initiatives underway in the country. When asked directly who the new NGC chairman is, Moonilal said: 'We have dealt with that matter and in the coming days we are just awaiting the normal arrangements to be put in place and a full board of the NGC, chairman and all board members will be announced I believe very early next week.'

'I prefer not to call out names and so on before the persons themselves may have been contacted,' Moonilal said.

Asked why Ramadhar Singh's appointment was revoked, Moonilal said: 'Again, in the early part of next week we will announce the entire board.'

Ramadhar Singh was appointed chairman of the National Gas Company (NGC) following the resignation of Dr Joseph Ishmael Khan in May.

Khan stepped down as chairman of the NGC and its subsidiaries after the United National Congress' victory in the general election.

According to its website, NGC and its subsidiaries are 'an integrated group of over 30 energy companies committed to delivering maximum value creation for its stakeholders from the natural gas value chain while embracing the energy transition for the long-term sustainability of the energy and petrochemical sectors'.

NGC's main subsidiaries include the National Energy Corporation of T& T, NGC Green Co Ltd, La Brea Industrial Development Co Ltd, T& T NGL Ltd, and Phoenix Park Gas Processors Ltd.

Last Monday, the boards of several Stateowned energy companies were appointed. Letters of appointment were issued to the new Boards of Heritage Petroleum Company Ltd, Paria Fuel Trading Company Ltd, and Guaracara Refining Company Ltd.

Former CEO of the Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (UDeCOTT), Kurt Ramlal, has been appointed chairman of Heritage Petroleum. Chairman of the Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation, Gowntam Maharaj, was named chairman of Guaracara Refining Company Ltd, while attorney Nyree Alfonso was appointed chairman of Paria Fuel Trading Company Ltd.