

Moonilal targets 2026 for wind energy projects

ENERGY MINISTER Dr Roodal Moonilal says he intends to have bankable data by next year identifying the best onshore and offshore sites for wind energy projects in Trinidad and Tobago, as the Government ramps up efforts to position wind as a central pillar of its renewable energy strategy.

Moonilal made the announcement while delivering the keynote address at the Validation Workshop for the European Union-funded National Wind Energy Action Plan, held at the Head Office of the National Energy Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd (National Energy) in Couva.

The workshop, led by the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries, aimed to advance the development of a National Wind Energy Action Plan. It builds on the earlier Wind Strategy report 'Setting the Path for Wind Energy Generation in Trinidad and Tobago', a desktop study funded by the Delegation of the European Union.

Moonilal described wind as a 'key resource' for utility-scale power generation and cited progress on the Onshore Wind Resource Assessment Programme (WRAP), which will be expanded with the deployment of two additional wind measurement devices in the Los Iros/Santa Flora and Toco/Manzanilla areas by the end of the week.

He said Trinidad and Tobago's wind energy ambitions would not stop with onshore development.

'The ministry, as Chair of the Wind Energy Steering Committee of Trinidad and Tobago, will be issuing a request for proposals to conduct an offshore Wind Resource Assessment Programme for Trinidad and Tobago. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my intention to have bankable data available for investors by 2026, identifying the best sites both for onshore and offshore wind deployment,' Moonilal said.

President of National Energy Dr Vernon Paltoo said the agency remains fully committed to supporting the energy transition.

'As the executing agency for the Wind Resource Assessment Programme, National Energy remains fully committed to our ministry, to our partners, and to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. We are determined to ensure that our energy transition remains focused, ambitious, and above all, achievable,' Paltoo said.

Also present at the workshop were Ambassador to the EU Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago Peter Cavendish; Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy of Germany Martin Langer, and Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy of Spain Diego Calatayud Soriana.