

# Business groups welcome new government



Chairman of the Confederation of Regional Business Chambers, Vivek Charran

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While business groups have congratulated Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and the United National Congress (UNC) on their General Election victory on Monday, they urge that the work begins now as there are many pressing issues to be dealt with.

The T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce, in a statement yesterday, said there is no honeymoon period, as the country has to navigate many global tensions.

The chamber strongly encourages the new administration to act swiftly and decisively in addressing all national challenges.

It noted that the chamber has put forward recommendations to address several issues affecting the business community including, the state of crime, access to foreign exchange, economic diversification, public sector reform, and the full implementation of the T&T Revenue Authority.

“We stand ready and willing to partner with the government, to address these and other socioeconomic issues,” the chamber said.

Amcham T&T stressed that the number one priority of the Government has to be to reduce crime—a critical element in restoring investor and public confidence and ensuring a safe and prosperous society.

In tandem, the chamber said, this country urgently needs to address education reform to reverse the Caribbean-wide crisis in math and English and prepare young people to take advantage of current and emerging opportunities.

“We believe that prioritising these areas will not only strengthen the economy but also advance broader socioeconomic development, leading to a more prosperous and resilient T&T. We encourage the Government to adopt a more collaborative approach now that the campaign is over. The more people in the boat, rowing in the same direction, the more likely we are to get to the intended destination,” said Amcham T&T.

The Confederation of Regional Business Chambers (CRBC) chairman Vivek Charran, said the people have repudiated the existing PNM Government, and the UNC and its Coalition of Interests created a large groundswell for the UNC.

“I extend my deep congratulations to the incoming government and the new Prime Minister, Kamla Persad-Bissessar. We look forward to working closely with the incoming Government for the good and prosperity of T&T,” said Charran.

Also, Fyzabad Chamber of Commerce president Angie Jairam noted that the chamber looks forward to working with the new government with regards to the policies laid out in their manifestos for the development of business and communities.

“We will welcome our new MP Dave Tancoo and thank our past MP Dr Lackram Bodoie for his services to our communities. We look forward to working with the elected government for the improvement of all,” Jairam said.

President of the greater San Fernando Area Chamber of Commerce, Kiran Singh shared expectations as he welcomed Dr Michael Dowlath, the new MP for San Fernando West.

“We look forward to the plans that he has for the continuing development of the waterfront as we know that is the new economic frontier for the southern area of Trinidad and that is the impetus that we need to generate revenue for downtown San Fernando as well,” he added.

The Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers’ Association (TTMA), in congratulating the new government, said it was committed to working with the new Government in advancing the growth and development of the manufacturing sector, which is a critical pillar of national economic resilience and diversification.

“We look forward to engaging with the administration to support initiatives that enhance the competitiveness of local industry, drive innovation, and expand exports,” TTMA outlined.

Meanwhile, the Greater Tunapuna Chamber of Industry and Commerce (GTCIC) welcomed its new MP for Tunapuna, Roger Alexander, and expressed commitment to improving crime and public safety, including the expansion of the Eagle Eye surveillance system and support for strengthened community policing initiatives.

The business group noted it is committed to fostering economic growth, supporting enterprises, and strengthening the fabric of the community.

“We stand ready to collaborate with the new administration.

“We look forward to engaging on key priorities including investment attraction, infrastructure modernisation, public safety, youth development, digital transformation, and entrepreneurship support,” it explained.