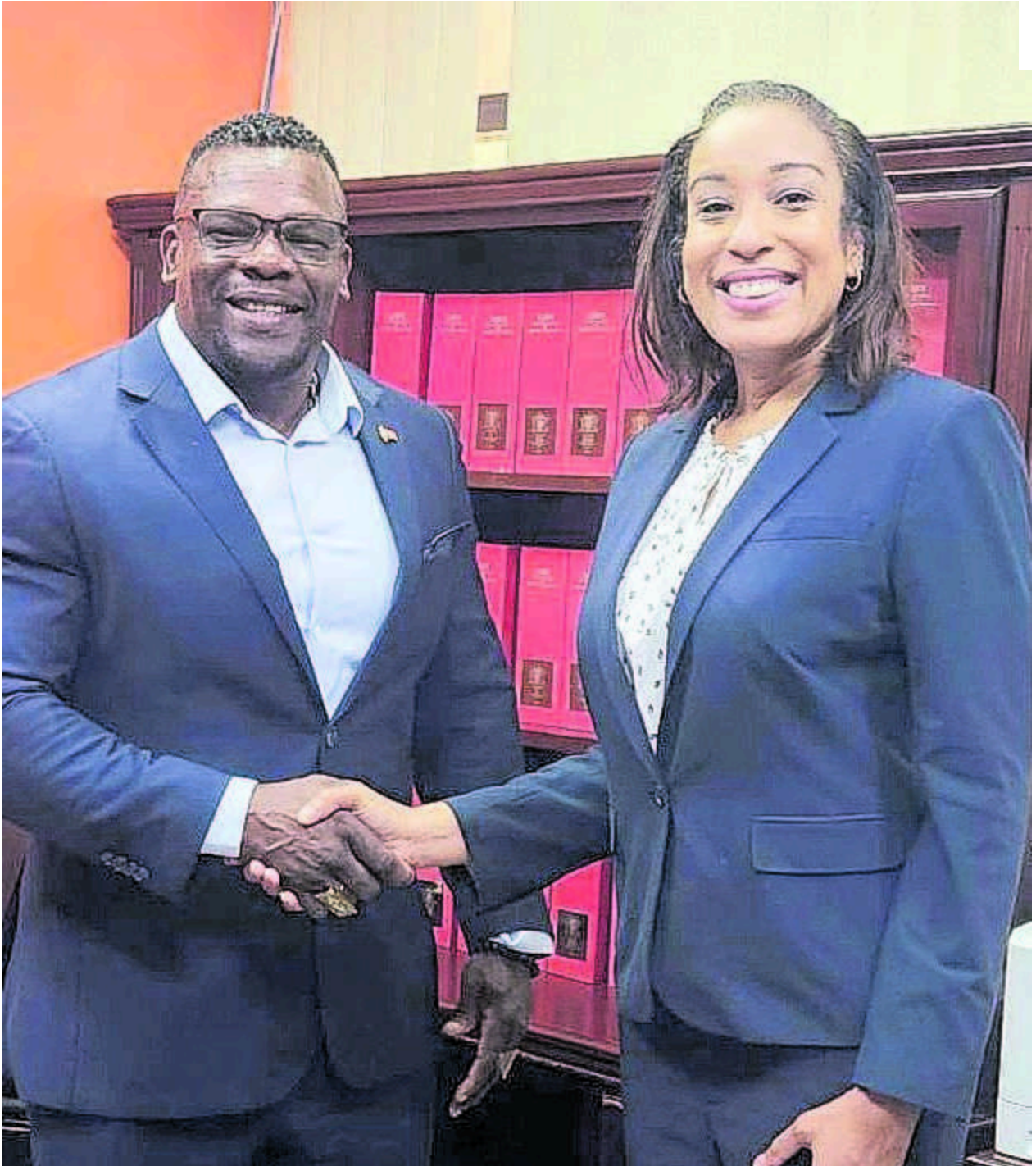


T&T Chamber supports free movement of labour



Minister of Homeland Security Roger Alexander welcomes president of the T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Sonji Pierre-Chase, during a meeting at the ministry's headquarters in Port-of-Spain yesterday.

PHOTO COURTESY MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

The T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce has reaffirmed its support for regional integration and the free movement of labour, following high-level talks between the Ministry of Homeland Security and the private sector group.

In a meeting last week Thursday, Minister of Homeland Security Roger Alexander met with T&T Chamber president Sonji Pierre-Chase to discuss a range of national priorities, including crime prevention, trade facilitation, and regional cooperation particularly in the context of the Caricom Single Market and Economy (CSME).

The chamber said it was encouraged by the minister's openness to dialogue, especially as it relates to deepening regional integration. According to a statement, both parties recognised the importance of enabling the free and secure movement of skilled labour across Caricom member states, in line with T&T's longstanding treaty obligations.

"The facilitation of regional labour mobility is critical not just for economic growth, but for unlocking shared opportunity across the Caribbean," the Chamber said. "It is essential that national security frameworks support not hinder the legal movement of people who contribute to productivity, innovation, and regional resilience."

The meeting also addressed immigration matters tied to regional integration under the CSME.

The chamber called for greater recognition of the rights of holders of valid CSME skills certificates, stating that such individuals are entitled to entry and employment without the need for a work permit.

The organisation reaffirmed its support for the full and free movement of skilled labour within the region and advocated for the swift adoption of paperless immigration landing forms as part of the country's digital transformation agenda.

On matters of community engagement, the chamber expressed its intention to strengthen its existing Neighbourhood Crime Watch Programme in partnership with the E999 Unit. The ongoing collaboration with Crime Stoppers was also acknowledged as a vital component of community safety.

The chamber also pledged its support for the ministry's proposed youth mentorship programme, which aims to divert at-risk youth from criminal activity by offering guidance, structure, and life skills training.

Speaking after the meeting, Pierre-Chase said, "I am grateful for the opportunity to meet with Alexander, and I am optimistic about the initiatives we discussed. The T&T Chamber, through our crime and justice committee, remains committed to partnering with the Government to create a safer, more secure environment in which businesses and communities can thrive."

The chamber said it would continue to advocate for policies that not only enhance national security but also stimulate economic activity, ensure greater efficiency at ports, and support regional mobility through meaningful CSME implementation.