

Forex dominates CBTT talks with private sector



Central Bank Governor Larry Howai, fourth from right, along with senior executives of the institution, meet with representatives of the T&T Chamber, president Sonji Pierre-Chase (fifth from left), Bryan Ramsumair, fourth from left, and CEO Vashti Guyadeen, second from right.

The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago met with two private sector organisations on Monday and yesterday, with the topic of foreign exchange dominating the stakeholder engagements.

The Central Bank hosted a meeting with the American Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago (Amcham T&T) on Monday as part of a series of key stakeholder engagements started since Governor Larry Howai's appointment in June 2025.

According to a news release from the Central Bank, "The key areas of discussion included the management of and access to foreign exchange, repatriation of earnings, the implications of VAT returns, expanding export-led growth, public/private partnerships, diversification, and the expansion of fintechs especially as it relates to improving the ease of doing business."

According to the Monday's release, the Governor acknowledged that Amcham T&T plays a key role in enhancing business competitiveness, safeguarding investor confidence and promoting sustainable development and as such, they are a major stakeholder with potential to influence positive change.

"The Central Bank will continue to deepen its relationship with Amcham T&T with a view to finding creative solutions to make ourselves globally competitive."

Governor Howai said, "Confidence in the ability and talent of our people and proven track record in overcoming obstacles, noting that strategic engagements such as this one can only redound to the benefit of our country and its citizens."

Yesterday, the Central Bank continued its stakeholder engagements with a focussed discussion involving representatives of the Trinidad & Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

Governor Howai identified the primary purpose of the meeting as getting an understanding from the Chamber of their perspectives based on an open and candid exchange of facts, challenges and potential solutions.

“A key outcome from the session was the strong endorsement of the Central Bank’s perspectives on how we can potentially do things differently and more transparently in managing and allocating scarce foreign exchange reserves. The Chamber committed to supporting the Central Bank’s efforts by educating their members on the existing challenges, the need to operate differently and to become more self-sufficient.”

Last Thursday, the Central Bank team met with the Confederation of the Regional Business Chambers. In the wake of that meeting, the Central Bank said that “foreign exchange, including supply-demand dynamics and the outlook for improving access and efficiency, was a central topic of discussion during the meeting.”