

# Moonilal talks to Grenada about oil and gas

Months after announcing plans to re-engage with Grenada concerning the possible exploration of oil and gas there, Energy and Energy Industries Minister Dr Roodal Moonilal met with the Prime Minister of Grenada Dickon Mitchell concerning the matter.

In a release on Tuesday, the ministry confirmed Dr Moonilal met with PM Mitchell, Grenadian Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs Senator Claudette Joseph, Rodney George, advisor, Ministry of Infrastructure, Public Utilities, Civil Aviation and Transportation, and advisor in the Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy; and Nazim Burke, chairman of Grenada's Hydrocarbons Technical Working Group, Ministry of Infrastructure, Public Utilities, Civil Aviation and Transportation.

These meetings were held over a two-day period last weekend.

The release confirmed that discussions focussed on exploring opportunities for collaboration within the oil and gas sector.

Minister Moonilal expanded on what was discussed in a brief comment to the Guardian yesterday.

He said it was a very productive meeting, during which matters of energy cooperation between T&T and Grenada were discussed.

“The Prime Minister has cabinet responsibilities for Energy, and this was a mandate given by the honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of T&T to the Ministry of Energy to further discussions, collaborations and cooperation with the government of Grenada as they develop a hydrocarbon sector given some promising developments in their offshore basin, the Nutmeg.

“So we have had discussions, we will continue to have discussions but at a more technical, institutional and legal framework perspective.”

He added, “It has been very positive, and we expect to continue those discussions in a few short weeks to further and deepen our collaboration particularly as it relates to the offshore developments that the Grenada government has earmarked for future exploration and production.”

During the swearing-in ceremony for Cabinet ministers on May 3, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar mandated the newly appointed Minister of Energy and Energy Industries to urgently engage with the Government of Grenada with a view to fostering collaboration in the energy sector.

The release stated, “In fulfilment of this mandate, the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries promptly initiated contact through formal correspondence, which culminated in recent in-person meetings between the respective parties.”

Minister Moonilal highlighted T&T's robust and well-established energy infrastructure during the meeting, as well as the extensive experience and technical knowledge the country has gained as a longstanding global hydrocarbon producer.

In 2012, T&T and the Government of Grenada signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation on energy development.

The release said, “This renewed engagement builds upon that MoU and signals Trinidad and Tobago’s readiness to share its oil and gas expertise in support of Grenada’s energy development.”

Prime Minister Mitchell said he welcomed the opportunity for collaboration and expressed Grenada’s commitment to deepening partnerships with Trinidad and Tobago, especially in the area of support services as Grenada is at the early stage of assessing its hydrocarbon resource potential.”

It was noted that the transfer of skills and technology could bring mutual benefits to the people of T&T and the people of Grenada through jobs, income, and opportunities.