Govt removes Ramadhar Singh as NGC chair

Dr Randy Ramadhar Singh

ANDREA PEREZ-SOBERS SENIOR REPORTER ANDREA.PEREZ-SOBERS @GUARDIAN.CO.TT

Almost one month after he was appointed as the chairman of wholly state-owned National Gas Company (NGC), Dr Randy Ramadhar Singh has been removed as the lead director of T&T's largest and most profitable indigenous company.

Cabinet sources told Guardian Media that a letter is being prepared to revoke Ramadhar Singh's appointment and NGC officials will be informed of this in the coming days.

The sources said no grounds were indicated for the rescinding of his position.

He was given his instrument of appointment three weeks ago, met with the acting NGC president Edmund Subryan and held a meeting with other presidents of NGC subsidiaries.

Things have been uncertain for the past two weeks, as Guardian Media was reliably informed that there was a dispute between Ramadhar Singh and a special adviser to the Government over a contract. This disagreement led to the rapid change, sources said.

Attorney Gerald Ramdeen was named as the person to replace Dr Ramadhar Singh, who was appointed to that role on June 4.

However, sources say this was rescinded during last week's cabinet meeting, as several ministers were not in favour of Ramdeen.

Meetings at a Cabinet-level were held on Sunday and yesterday to decide who will be the NGC's new chairman, thosesources said.

However, NGC sources confirmed that Ramadhar Singh spent the entire day yesterday meeting with various teams to plan the way forward for the company.

Efforts to contact Energy Minister Dr Roodal Moonilal by messages on WhatsApp were not answered up to press time.

The NGC and its subsidiaries are an integrated group of over 30 energy companies, including National Energy Corporation of T&T (National Energy), Phoenix Park Gas Processors Ltd (PPGPL), NGC Green Company (NGC Green), T&T NGL (TTNGL), and La Brea Industrial Development Company Ltd.

The state company is seen as a vital cog in the T&T economy.

The National Gas Company and the wider NGC Group recorded an after-tax profit of $540 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2024.

The company said that this represented a significant improvement of $1.8 billion from the reported loss of $1.3 billion for the year ended December 31, 2023, which was impacted by $1.8 billion in impairment charges.