
MEDIA RELEASE

June 3, 2019

The T&T Chamber welcomes the appointment of new Industrial Court judges

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce welcomes the recent appointment of judges to the Industrial Court, an institution that carries out a valuable function in our industrial relations (IR) landscape. The T&T Chamber therefore extends congratulations to the appointees (some of whom are returning) in taking on this very important role.

Given the increasing volatility of the IR environment, the T&T Chamber has consistently advocated for appointments to the Industrial Court's bench to include candidates – from both the public and private sectors – who have an appreciation of business operations. All parties coming before the Court must be confident that their matters will be treated fairly. Having a balanced judicial composition, therefore, helps achieve better representation of the interests of all stakeholders.

In an earlier address, T&T Chamber President Reyaz Ahamad called for fair and balanced treatment, noting, “We must acknowledge that the world of work is changing and so too are the norms of industrial relations.” His message has not been lost; we are heartened by the decision of Her Excellency the President to proceed with the new appointments, which include people with solid private sector experience.

The Industrial Relations Act under which Trinidad and Tobago currently operates is over 46 years old and the amendments proposed in 2015 have lapsed. Since the T&T Chamber feels strongly that the IR Act should be high on the parliamentary agenda, it will keep advocating for another review so that all parties can benefit from relevant, fit-for-purpose industrial relations laws.

The T&T Chamber remains committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure continued progress towards a healthy and productive industrial relations environment in Trinidad and Tobago.

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