

**13 April 2026**

**THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE**  
**CHAMPIONS STRONGER TT–GUYANA BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP**

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce hosted its Annual Meeting and Outlook for 2026–2027 at the Hyatt Regency, Port of Spain on Friday 10 April 2026, bringing together business leaders at a critical moment for regional competitiveness, investment and economic expansion. Delivering the feature address, His Excellency Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Cooperative of Guyana underscored that the longstanding relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana must now advance into a more structured and results-driven economic partnership, grounded in shared prosperity, competitiveness and strong private-sector leadership.

President Ali outlined Guyana’s aggressive push to strengthen its investment climate through targeted fiscal incentives, major infrastructure expansion and modernised government systems designed to support business growth. He pointed to a clear national focus on diversification across energy, agro-processing, logistics and technology, supported by a stable and predictable policy environment. “Our role as government is to create the conditions for business to succeed,” he stated, “That means a framework that gives investors confidence, infrastructure that supports growth, and systems that allow the private sector to move quickly and compete globally.”

Calling for decisive action, President Ali made it clear that the next phase of collaboration must be driven by execution. “The partnership between Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana is not new, but the opportunity before us is unprecedented,” he said. “If we are serious about advancing this relationship, we must remove the barriers that constrain trade, align our systems, and build a joint economic platform that allows our businesses to compete and grow at scale.” He further stressed that “government must not hide behind bureaucracy and the private sector must not hide behind inefficiency,” urging businesses to take the lead in shaping this new economic frontier.

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The President encouraged deeper collaboration in key sectors including energy, agro-processing, infrastructure and technology, and called on regional businesses to pursue bold, long-term investments through partnerships and consortiums. “The future requires scale, integration and vision,” he noted, “By working together, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana can build a powerful economic partnership that positions our region to compete globally.”

He continued, “Protectionism cannot and will not allow any of us to be successful in the new world. The only formula is building our competitiveness, integrating our competitive advantage and building a common platform through which our products can first be competitive within the region and then extra-regionally.”

Newly elected President of the Chamber, Karen Yip Chuck, paid tribute to past leaders whose stewardship helped shape policy, guide industry and build confidence in Trinidad and Tobago as a place to do business. She highlighted the rapidly shifting global landscape, noting that supply chains are being reconfigured, energy markets remain volatile, and the rising cost of trade continues to affect business viability.

Ms. Yip Chuck outlined key challenges facing the business community, including foreign exchange constraints, rising operating costs, weak trade facilitation, skills and productivity gaps, and limited access to growth finance and market intelligence. “These are real pressures facing our members,” she stated. “I intend to ensure that these issues are actively pursued, addressed and, where possible, alleviated through structured engagement, evidence-based advocacy and practical recommendations that strengthen the business environment.”

The Chamber also introduced its newly elected Board for 2026–2027, led by President Karen Yip Chuck, alongside Senior Vice President Dr. Christian Stone, Vice Presidents Bryan Ramsumair and Jean-Paul Dookie, and Directors Kiran Maharaj, David Hadeed, Marc Persaud, Camille Chatoor, Sacha Thompson, Ambikah Mongroo, Garvin Medera, Yogendranath Ramsingh and Dale Lutchman.

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The newly elected Board signals a renewed focus on driving private sector growth, strengthening advocacy and positioning Trinidad and Tobago for greater regional and global competitiveness.

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