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Central Bank and BATT Continue Collaboration on Key Industry Matters

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad. July 28, 2025—The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago hosted a meeting with representatives of the Bankers' Association of Trinidad and Tobago (BATT) today, July 28, 2025, as part of a series of key stakeholder engagements following the recent appointment of Governor Larry Howai.

Governor Howai emphasised the importance of continued and robust collaboration between the Central Bank and BATT as the financial sector navigates the current economic environment. He reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to working closely with the banking community to identify pragmatic solutions to challenges in the financial sector in the best interests of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

During the meeting, discussions covered a review of the economy, financial system liquidity, issues of foreign exchange supply and demand, and evolving requirements for Know Your Customer (KYC) protocols for all bank customers to assure continued financial stability. The Governor indicated that finding a solution to the ongoing problems in the foreign exchange market is a priority. He underscored that a long-term solution could only occur when mechanisms are found to bring demand and supply into equilibrium, but that this is still some way off. The banks agreed and provided their recommendations for easing some of the problems faced by consumers. The Governor committed to considering those recommendations for implementation.

The banks inquired as to the way forward with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) implementation in Trinidad and Tobago and signalled their support in progressing this project in a manner that would be most efficient for the banking system while achieving the potential benefits of this new payment system. Additionally, the meeting addressed important updates on key regulatory matters.

The meeting highlighted the Bank's commitment to open dialogue and constructive engagement on key matters critical to economic stability and development. Governor Howai encouraged the banks to work with the Central Bank to explore solutions and made the point that, unless there are negative knock-on effects that are detrimental to the economy, he would like to see flexibility and creativity in the approaches to addressing challenges. The Governor expressed confidence that through continuous engagement and the sharing of ideas and perspectives, meaningful progress can be achieved in a number of areas. "The Central Bank will continue to work closely with BATT and its members to ensure that the financial system remains resilient, efficient, and responsive to the needs of the wider community," said Governor Howai.

Governor Howai chaired the meeting, along with members of the Bank's Senior Management Team. In attendance on behalf of BATT were Mr. Shawn Moses, JMMB Bank (T&T) Ltd, Vice-President, BATT; Mr. Nigel Baptiste, Chief Executive Officer, Republic Bank Ltd; Ms. Karen Darbasie, Managing Director, First Citizens Bank Ltd; Mr. Marc Jardine, Group Chief Executive Officer, RBC Royal Bank (T&T) Ltd; Mr. Mitchell De Silva, Managing Director, Citibank (T&T) Ltd; Mr. Mahadeo Sebarath, Managing Director, CIBC Caribbean Bank (T&T) Ltd; Mr. Savon Persad, Managing Director, ANSA Bank Ltd; Mr. Stephen Grell, Managing Director, ANSA Merchant Bank Ltd; and Mr. Randal Cezair, Regional Director Corporate and Commercial Banking, Scotiabank (T&T) Ltd.

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Photos: Central Bank Senior Management team and members of the Bankers' Association of Trinidad and Tobago (BATT):

- [Photo 1](#)
- [Photo 2](#)