

■ Moonilal meets with energy giants:

## Hopeful on working with Guyana, Suriname

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ENERGY MINISTER Dr Roodal Moonilal said yesterday he has engaged in several meetings with global energy giants ExxonMobil and Chevron at the Guyana Energy Conference.

In response to enquiries from the *Express*, Moonilal said via WhatsApp: 'We have had an extremely hectic schedule in Guyana. We were able to meet with the leadership of ExxonMobil, the president of upstream company of Exxon-Mobil, the chairman of Chevron and the Guyanese Government and authorities.'

He noted that the delegation he leads is progressing dialogue on collaboration, synthesising different approaches and sharing experiences in the oil and gas sector.

'I am extremely heartened that His Excellency (Guyana's president) Irfaan Ali has taken a personal interest in Trinidad and Tobago's energy development,' he said. Moonilal continued: 'And at this time we express regret that over the last few years, there appeared to be little interest on the part of T&T and that relationship was indeed cold.' He described yesterday's meeting with the Guyanese President as 'rekindling the great relationship with the Government and people of Guyana'.

'We are hoping that we can collaborate with Guyana and Suriname on several oil and gas projects and downstream activities,' he stated.

Moonilal also noted that another highlight of his trip was meeting with representatives from the financial community in Saudi Arabia where matters pertaining to the former Petrotrin refinery were discussed.

'We met with Oando as well discussing refinery issues and update and several other players who would have had an interest in the refinery since it is a front burner issue for us at this time,' said Moonilal.