

RFHL profits rise 8.9%

Republic Financial Holdings Ltd (RFHL) recorded profit attributable to its equity holders of \$595.7 million for the three months ended December 31, 2025, reflecting an increase of \$48.7 million or 8.9 per cent compared with the \$547 million reported in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

The results were announced yesterday by RFHL chairman Yashmid Karamath, who said the group's performance for the firstquarter was supported by steady core earnings, stable asset quality, and disciplined cost management.

Total assets stood at \$131.1 billion at the end of December 2025, representing an increase of \$7.5 billion or six per cent overthe \$123.6 billion recorded at December 2024. RFHL said the growth in assets was largely driven by increased lending activity across its subsidiaries, despite ongoing economic challenges in some of the markets in which the group operates.

Karamath said the group's capital and liquidity positions remain robust, providing a solid platform to support future growth. He said the group continues to focus on maintaining financial strength while navigating varying economic conditions across its regional footprint.Based on the first-quarter performance, the RFHL directors declared a quarterly interim dividend of \$0.55 per share, unchanged from the prior year. The dividend will be paid on February 27, 2026, to shareholders on record as of February 13, 2026.

On the group's strategic direction, Karamath said RFHL continued to advance initiatives aimed at strengthening operational efficiency, improving the customer experience and expanding its digital capabilities. He said the group remains focused on sustainable growth, with innovation and expansion pursued in a manner consistent with long-term value creation and sound governance practices.

RFHL operates one of the largest financial services groups in the Caribbean, with subsidiaries engaged in commercial banking, investment banking, asset

management, insurance and other financial services across several territories. The group has continued to invest in technology and process improvements as part of its efforts to remain competitive in a changing financial services environment.

Karamath also expressed appreciation to the management and staff of RFHL for their professionalism and commitment, and to shareholders for their continued trust and support.

He also acknowledged the contribution of former chairman Vincent A Pereira, thanking him for his leadership and service to the Board and the organisation during his tenure.

The first-quarter results come as financial institutions across the region continue to balance growth opportunities with cost pressures, regulatory requirements, and evolving customer expectations, particularly in relation to digital banking and service delivery.