

TCL to hike price of cement sacks by 15% on Monday



TCL general manager, Gonzalo Rueda Castillo PHOTO COURTESY TCL

Trinidad Cement Ltd (TCL) yesterday informed its customers—mostly hardware stores, contractors and households looking to do renovations—that the ex-factory price of its cement bags would increase by 15 per cent next week Monday.

In a communication yesterday to a “valued customer,” the publicly listed, Claxton Bay-headquartered cement producer said that following its communication on January 26, it wanted to share an important update regarding recent developments affecting our operations with potential impact on the construction sector.

“As the National Gas Company’s (NGC) previously announced increase in

natural gas prices has now been confirmed retroactive to 1 January 2026, this is having a direct and significant impact on TCL's production costs.

"While TCL remains deeply concerned about the broader impact of these gas prices on your business, end users and the construction sector, it necessitates a 15 per cent price adjustment, effective February 9, 2026, on sacks," TCL said.

A company source confirmed that the reference to "sacks," meant a bag of cement.

TCL said it remains firmly committed to maintaining its operations in T&T, supporting more than 350 direct employees and over 400 local contractors and suppliers, and continuing its contribution to the economy as a leading foreign exchange generator, with exports expected to exceed US\$40 million in 2026.

"We value our long-standing partnership with you and will continue to work together to navigate these challenging market conditions," said TCL's general manager Gonzalo Rueda Castillo, in the communication.

In the last Sunday Business Guardian, Rock Hard Cement's managing director, Ryna Ramhit, said the company, which imports cement into T&T, was committed to holding its prices steady.

"There's no increase in price in the foreseeable future. Of course, if something drastic happens to affect my end price, my end cost ... Rock Hard is here to support Trinidad and Tobago. So, I will always do my best to ensure that my prices are low so I can bring affordable cement into the entire country," said Ramhit.

Contractors told the Sunday Business Guardian that "unofficially," the anticipated increase in TCL's cement prices could be between 15 and 20 per cent, though the final adjustment has not been announced.

When contacted on Friday, Bhagwansingh's Hardware, one of T&T's largest chains, said a bag of TCL cement retails for \$68 VAT inclusive, while a bag of Rock Hard cement sells for \$62 VAT inclusive.

The proposed 15 per cent increase in the price of TCL's cement could take the estimated ex-factory price of a bag of cement to \$68.42 and the VAT inclusive price of a bag to \$77.