

Swaratsingh represents T&T at IDB meeting



Minister of Planning, Economic Affairs, Kennedy Swaratsingh. PHOTO BY LINCOLN HOLDER

Minister of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development and Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Kennedy Swaratsingh, is in Paraguay to lead T&T's delegation at the Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) annual meetings.

Swaratsingh will attend the meeting in his capacity as Governor for Trinidad and Tobago on the boards of governors of the IDB and IDB Invest.

The 66th annual meeting of the board of governors of the IDB and the 40th

annual meeting of the board of governors of the Inter-American Investment Corporation is taking place in Asunción, Paraguay. The meetings began on Wednesday and are set to run until Sunday.

Minister Swaratsingh said the meetings offer an important opportunity for T&T to engage with its longest-standing developmental finance partner and to identify practical responses to the country's key growth and development challenges. He said discussions at the meeting will focus significantly on accelerating economic growth and development through greater private sector engagement, a priority that aligns closely with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's mandate to promote sustainable growth, investment and economic transformation.

A release from the Ministry stated the Planning and Economic Affairs Minister will use the margins of the annual meetings in Paraguay to convene a series of high-level bilateral discussions, including meetings with IDB president Ilan Goldfajn, the general manager of IDB Invest James Scriven and the newly appointed general manager of IDB Lab Graham Macmillan. There will also be a series of engagements with other senior members of the Bank's management team and representatives of other participating institutions.

T&T's delegation will feature officials from both ministries, including Omatee Geawan-Ramdass, counsellor for T&T in the Office of the Executive Director for the Caribbean Constituency; Karen Boodan, senior legal advisor, Ministry of Finance and Renika Huggins, debt economic analyst in the Debt Management Division, Ministry of Finance.

This year's meetings also mark Minister Swaratsingh's first participation in the IDB annual meetings in his capacity as Governor for T&T, providing an important platform to advance the country's policy priorities and strengthen engagement with the leadership of the Bank and key regional partners.

The meetings bring together the governors, who are primarily ministers of finance, presidents of central banks and other senior authorities to facilitate structured deliberations and the adoption of resolutions addressing the development challenges and priorities of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The ministry said this year's discussions will address matters of strategic importance to this country, including options related to development financing and debt management, as well as opportunities to deepen partnerships that support the country's current development agenda.

The ministry release stated, “The engagements come at an opportune time, as the current IDB country strategy for Trinidad and Tobago concludes this year and consultations begin on priority areas that will shape the next country strategy, which is expected to enter preparation in the near term.”