Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

DEVELOPMENT BANK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

28th July, 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

CAF, Ministry of Finance, and Key Private Sector Stakeholders Discuss Workplan for Deeper Private Sector Engagement

Development Bank hosts Private Sector Dialogue to highlight how CAF's agile financing tools can support the country's development initiatives.

CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean convened a high-level Private Sector Dialogue on Monday, July 27, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port of Spain. The session brought together Government Ministers, senior representatives from various Chambers of Commerce, leaders of financial institutions, and key enterprise executives to discuss how CAF's financing instruments can be channelled to firms within Trinidad and Tobago and to identify potential opportunities to support national development.

The dialogue provided a platform for focused discussion on innovative approaches to enhancing firm competitiveness while promoting resilient regional integration by providing financing and technical expertise across the region.

A key highlight of the workshop was a dedicated ministerial meeting between the CAF private sector team and Cabinet Ministers. In attendance were:

The Honourable Davendranath Tancoo, Minister of Finance; The Honourable Jearlean John, Minister of Works and Infrastructure; and The Honourable Satyakama Maharaj, Minister of Trade, Investment and Tourism. During the session, Minister John delivered a presentation on the National Revitalisation Blueprint, detailing a strategic development roadmap featuring 129 projects across 13 development nodes. CAF affirmed its commitment to helping advance the initiatives outlined in the blueprint.

Driving Capital and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

In his opening remarks, Mr. Bernardo Requena, CAF Director Representative for Trinidad and Tobago, underscored the pivotal role of the private sector in sustainable economic growth, noting that data shows nine out of ten jobs are created within the private sector. "For a small island developing state, PPPs can align public priorities with private capital and execution capacity." Furthermore, he said, "they can also help move projects forward in areas that are vital to our region's development."

Mr. Antonio Silveira, CAF's Vice President for Private Sector, reaffirmed the bank's commitment to partnering with key entities across the region. He noted that CAF manages an active private-sector portfolio exceeding USD 4 billion and remains focused on expanding development funding in support of investment, innovation, competitiveness, and economic diversification.

Delivering the feature presentation, Mr. Juan Elorza, Director of CAF's Directorate of Sectoral and Technical Analysis, outlined the array of financial and technical instruments available to support private enterprises and PPP projects. In 2025, CAF's Vice Presidency for Private Sector approved USD 7.5 billion in operations—representing 40 percent of total approvals for the year and managed an active portfolio of USD 4.1 billion.

Local and Regional Impact Initiatives

CAF's expanded engagement in Trinidad and Tobago includes:

SME Facility: A USD 35 million facility approved in 2025 with EXIMBANK to assist small and medium-sized enterprises in scaling operations, adopting new technologies, and enhancing global competitiveness.

Regional Institutional Collaborations: Partnership with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and other regional organisations to unlock co-financing opportunities and tailored financing tools.

The VELA Fund: A recently launched fund aimed at mobilising private capital into high-impact sectors, including biodiversity, the blue economy, regenerative agriculture, poverty reduction, and financial inclusion. CAF is committing USD 20 million as the fund's anchor investor to leverage this into a USD 150 million regional investment vehicle—20 percent of which is targeted specifically at smaller economies in the Caribbean and Central America.

About CAF:

CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean is a Development Bank committed to supporting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and improving quality of life across the region. CAF promotes sustainable development and regional integration by serving both public and private-sector clients, offering a wide range of financial products and services to 25 member countries, private companies, and financial institutions.

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