

The ribbon is cut: TTMB is ready for lift off

The future of TTMB is up!

This proclamation made by Patrick Ferreira, the Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Mortgage Bank (TTMB), was the indicator that after years of arduous work, the merger between the Trinidad and Tobago Mortgage Finance Company (TTMF) and Home Mortgage Bank (HMB) was finally complete.

The TTMF was jointly owned by the Government of Trinidad & Tobago and the National Insurance Board (NIB). NIB owned 51 per cent of TTMF and 100 per cent of HMB. The merger has seen the unification of these robust companies.

“Effective January 17, 2024, the merger was completed with TTMF purchasing 100 per cent of the shares of HMB from NIB,” said the Chairman.

TTMB is ready for lift off.

The ceremonial launch of the bank took place March 20 at the Hyatt Regency. Under the theme Anti-Gravity, TTMB was introduced as a financial services institution meant to move beyond the mere stability of the status quo, propelling upwards and going to new heights.

“This is a new beginning towards fulfilling its role in support of the Government’s housing programme and the realisation of enhanced value creation for its customers and the generation of returns for shareholders and investors,” he added.

Now that the merger has entered its third phase of implementation, the Chairman pointed out that there will be a repeal of the Home Mortgage Bank Act now that HMB has been dissolved. But he also gave some assurance that the new bank will retain some of the benefits of the HMB Act.

“We will be making representation through the Ministry of Finance to retain these benefits, in particular the Tax-Free Bonds which HMB issued,” the Chairman explained.

In delivering the feature address, the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Colm Imbert said the merger will give TTMB access to TT\$2 billion in low cost funds to provide affordable mortgages.

“It would reduce the cost of borrowing from six per cent, the market rate, to three per cent, thus allowing TTMB to significantly reduce its expenses and ultimately reduce the cost of mortgage lending for low and middle-income earners,” he said.

The merger, the Minister added, now creates a cash-rich vehicle of social policy, an institution that can provide billions of dollars in affordable mortgage loans to assist every citizen in fulfilling their dream of home ownership.

The Minister played particular attention to Government's Vision 2030 and the National Development Strategy which looks at Goal Three – adequate and affordable housing for citizens, in the hope of reducing poverty in the medium and long-term.

“Through this merger and other initiatives in the housing sector, we are making home ownership easier, while simultaneously addressing the critical needs of the renting population,” he said.

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