



## RATING RELEASE

June 30, 2026

### **CariCRIS reaffirms 'high' creditworthiness ratings to the TT \$36 million bond issue of Development Finance Limited**

*CariAA-* (Regional Scale Foreign and Local Currency)  
*ttAA-* (National Scale Foreign and Local Currency)

Caribbean Information and Credit Rating Services Limited (CariCRIS) has reaffirmed the issue ratings of *CariAA-* (Foreign and Local Currency Ratings) on the regional rating scale, and *ttAA-* (Foreign and Local Currency Ratings) on the Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) national scale to the TT \$36 million bond issue of Development Finance Limited (Development Finance or the Company). These ratings indicate that the level of creditworthiness of this obligation, adjudged in relation to other obligations in the Caribbean and within T&T is **high**. The ratings include a 4-notch credit uplift due to the bond being fully secured by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) and GORTT-guaranteed securities.

CariCRIS has also assigned a **stable** outlook on the ratings. The stable outlook is based on the high likelihood that Development Finance's key credit drivers will be maintained over the next 12 to 15 months, with all debt service commitments being paid in a timely manner. This is supported by the continued high quality of the bond's underlying assets with Development Finance's sizeable cash and investment portfolio serving as adequate buffers. Additionally, the Company's financial performance is expected to remain good over the next 12 to 15 months largely underpinned by growth in its earning asset base and funding profile, alongside an improvement in economic conditions in T&T.

The ratings are driven by the consistently high credit quality of the bond's underlying assets, which generate stable and reliable cash flows for debt servicing, as well as the Company's comfortable capitalisation, evidenced by strong capital adequacy ratios. Development Finance's improved financial performance over 2025, ongoing income diversification, a moderately diversified investment portfolio with good asset quality, and a stable and growing, though relatively small funding base, further support the ratings.



However, the ratings are tempered by the concentrated sovereign risk exposure, notwithstanding generally supportive economic conditions.

**Rating Sensitivity Factors:**

**Factors that could individually, or collectively lead to an improvement in the ratings and/or outlook:**

- Improvement in the credit rating of the GORTT

**Factors that could individually, or collectively lead to a lowering of the ratings and/or outlook:**

- Material impairment in any of the underlying securities
- Substantial deterioration in the financial performance and position of Development Finance
- Downgrade in the credit rating of the GORTT
- Breaches to any of the bond's covenants
- Breach of covenants related to other long-term borrowings including limits related to non-performing loans
- A fall in the bond's security coverage to below 1.0X.

**About the company:**

Development Finance Limited (Development Finance or the Company) is a licensed non-bank financial institution (NBFI) in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) under the Financial Institutions Act (2008) and is registered with the Deposit Insurance Corporation (DIC)<sup>1</sup>. The Company was initially established in the 1970s as the T&T Development Finance Company (TTDFC). Development Finance's current shareholders comprise Maritime Financial Group (62.64%), held through its subsidiaries Maritime Life (Caribbean) Limited (37.73%) and the Maritime General Insurance Company Limited (24.91%), and the Government of the Republic of T&T (GORTT) (37.36%)<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The DIC's main function is to provide insurance protection for depositors against the potential loss of their deposits should a member financial institution fail.

<sup>2</sup> In 2024, the Company's shareholding consisted of the Minister of Finance (Corporation Sole) (49.75%), Maritime General Insurance Company Limited (33.17%) and Maritime Life (Caribbean) Limited (17.08%). Maritime Life (Caribbean) Limited converted its 200,000 convertible preference shares, valued at TT \$20 million, into 20 million ordinary shares during FY2025, at TT \$1.00 per ordinary share. This conversion increased Maritime Life (Caribbean) Limited's ownership stake in the company.



The Company’s mandate is to provide funding and project structuring for small, medium, and large corporations engaged in development activities that support growth in the T&T economy. Since its inception, Development Finance’s core business has been the provision of business-development financing to local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). In 2011, the Company expanded its product suite to include merchant banking and foreign exchange (forex) services, in addition to long-term commercial financing. Its products and services are delivered through six primary business lines: (i) debt arrangement and underwriting, (ii) buying and selling of forex, (iii) acceptance of fixed deposits, (iv) corporate and commercial lending, (v) provision of guarantees, and (vi) issuance of letters of credit. Moreover, in August 2024, the Company expanded its footprint by opening a branch in South Trinidad at 78-82 Scott Street, San Fernando, further extending its core businesses to nearby residents. As at December 2025, Development Finance’s total assets amounted to TT \$1.4 billion, and total income in 2025 was TT \$41 million.

In July 2021, Development Finance issued a secured fixed-rate bond, collateralized by GORTT and GORTT-guaranteed bonds, in the amount of TT \$63.3 million. Following this issuance, the Company launched an additional secured fixed-rate bond offering of up to TT \$100 million. To date, TT \$36 million was subscribed, and the offering was subsequently closed. Net proceeds were applied toward general corporate purposes.

The bond comprises three tranches, summarized below:

<b>Development Finance Bond Issue of up to TT \$100 million - Fixed Rate Tax Exempt</b>		
<b>Tranche</b>	<b>Actual Amount Issued*</b>	<b>Coupon Rate (Fixed)</b>
<b>Tranche A - 5-year*</b>	TT \$4 million	2.75%
<b>Tranche B - 7-year</b>	TT \$6.5 million	3%
<b>Tranche C - 10-year</b>	TT \$25.5 million	4%

*Source: Development Finance, \*Final issue size is TT \$36 million.*

*\*Tranche A matures in June 2027.*

Each tranche is secured by a pool of TT and US dollar assets<sup>3</sup> comprising GORTT or GORTT-guaranteed fixed-income securities. Cash flows from the underlying assets represent the primary source of principal and interest payments, with Development Finance’s own cash flows serving as a secondary source of repayment. Interest on all

<sup>3</sup> Of the 16 underlying assets, 5 are denominated in US \$ which represents 25.6% of the original principal.



tranches is payable semi-annually in US \$<sup>4</sup>, with principal repayable as a bullet payment at maturity in TT \$. Repayment funds were established for each tranche, into which the underlying GORTT and GORTT-guaranteed securities were deposited. The deposited assets were pledged to the Trustee for the life of the bond<sup>5</sup>. An asset may be removed from the collateral pool only if it is called or prepaid by the issuer of the underlying security. In such circumstances, the Trustee will remit the cash proceeds of the early repayment, inclusive of any interest received, to bondholders. First Citizens Trustee Services Limited serves as Trustee, and Development Finance acts as Paying Agent, managing all cash flows related to the secured assets, including the receipt of interest and principal payments from the underlying securities and the onward payment of funds to investors.

Development Finance is a registered broker dealer with the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission (TTSEC) and has previously issued and repaid multiple fixed-rate, tax-exempt bonds in the domestic market. As at June 2025, the TT \$63.3 million Secured Fixed Rate bond issued in July 2021 was rated *CariAA-* on the regional scale (Local Currency) and *ttAA-* on the national scale (Local Currency). All coupon payments due on this bond have been met in full and on time to date.

**For more information on Development Finance ratings, please visit [www.caricris.com](http://www.caricris.com) or contact:**

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<sup>4</sup> TT \$ amounts will be converted to US \$ using Development Finance's US \$ posted rate as at the interest payment date. As an authorized dealer, Development Finance's US \$ posted rate is determined in accordance with the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago's (CBTT) guidelines and codes of conduct governing the operations of the domestic foreign exchange market.

<sup>5</sup> The coupon and principal amounts received from the assets in the repayment fund will be reinvested by the Trustee, under the direction from Development Finance, in TT \$ and US \$ GORTT or GORTT-guaranteed assets.