

RATING RELEASE

October 19, 2026

CariCRIS reaffirms ‘high creditworthiness’ ratings to ANSA Merchant Bank Limited.

<i>CariAA</i>	(Regional Scale Foreign Currency)
<i>CariAA</i>	(Regional Scale Local Currency)
<i>ttAA</i>	(National Scale Foreign Currency)
<i>ttAA</i>	(National Scale Local Currency)

Caribbean Information and Credit Rating Services Limited (CariCRIS) has reaffirmed the assigned issuer/corporate credit ratings of *CariAA* (Foreign Currency (FC) and Local Currency (LC)) on the regional rating scale and *ttAA* (FC and LC) on the Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) national scale to ANSA Merchant Bank Limited (the Group or AMBL). These ratings include a single notch-up for the high likelihood of support, if needed, from the parent, ANSA McAL Limited (AMCL). The regional and national scale ratings indicate that the level of creditworthiness of this obligor, adjudged in relation to other obligors in the Caribbean and within T&T is **high**.

CariCRIS has also assigned a **stable** outlook on the ratings. The stable outlook reflects the high likelihood that the Group will continue to increase its profits over the next 12-15 months, supported by its strong market position and ongoing execution of strategic initiatives aligned with its corporate restructuring exercise. Earnings are expected to remain supported by the expansion of commercial and retail banking, continued digital transformation, enhanced wealth management capabilities, increased deployment into higher-yielding investments and loans, and management's ongoing initiatives to improve asset quality. These initiatives are expected to support revenue growth, diversification and operating efficiency while the Group's strong capital base and sound liquidity profile should continue to support timely debt servicing over the next 12-15 months.

The Group's ratings are supported by its favourable market position, underpinned by a well-established brand and long history in the financial services industry. The ratings also reflect the Group's good financial performance, supported by continued growth in

profitability, together with sustained strong capitalization levels and good liquidity metrics. Further support is derived from the Group's well-diversified business model, supported by a broad product offering and earning asset base, which reduces its reliance on any single revenue stream. The Group also benefits from good financial flexibility, including access to capital markets through the Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange and potential support from the ultimate parent company, ANSA McAL Limited, as well as a robust governance structure supported by strong risk management practices. Notwithstanding these strengths, the ratings are constrained by sovereign concentration risk, compounded by global economic uncertainty, that could weigh on financial performance, and deteriorating asset quality, as evidenced by an increasing non-performing loan ratio. The ratings also reflect execution risk associated with ongoing corporate restructuring changes that remain subject to regulatory approvals and successful implementation.

Rating Sensitivity Factors:

Factors that could, individually or collectively, lead to an improvement in the Ratings and/ or Outlook include:

- Improvement in the credit rating of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.
- A material improvement in any of its main segments' market share and the Group's overall financial performance.
- Material improvement in the financial performance and position of the ANSA McAL Group.

Factors that could, individually or collectively, lead to a lowering of the Ratings and/ or Outlook include:

- 2 years of sustained losses.
- A deterioration in the cost-to-income ratio above 50% sustained for 2 years.
- A more than 17.5% increase in insurance service expense and/or a more than 50% fall in net insurance service result thus resulting in PAT declining by more than 30%.
- NPL ratio remains elevated over 8% over the next 12-15 months.
- Downgrade in the rating of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Material deterioration in the financial performance and position of the ANSA McAL Group.

About the Company:

ANSA Merchant Bank Limited¹ (the Group or AMBL) is a financial services Group that comprises ANSA Merchant Bank Limited (the Parent or Bank) and its subsidiaries. The Parent was incorporated on March 3, 1977, and is domiciled in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T). Initially established as Amalgamated Finance Limited, the Parent was registered to conduct business as a securities company under the Securities Act 1995. The Group is majority owned by ANSA McAL Limited (AMCL)², one of the largest conglomerates in the Caribbean. Both AMCL and AMBL are listed on the T&T Stock Exchange. AMCL comprises over seventy wholly or partly owned companies with operations in several industries across eight Caribbean territories³, and internationally, in the United States (US), India and the United Kingdom (UK). The major industries in which it operates include Automotive, Beverage, Construction, Distribution, Manufacturing, Media, Purchasing Logistics and Travel, Retail, Real Estate and Financial Services, the latter of which is conducted through the Parent. As at December 2025⁴, the Group's top 3 shareholders were AMCL (82.5%), MASA Investments Limited (3.1%), and Republic Bank Limited (2.1%).

Over the ensuing years, the Group's operations expanded to include insurance services through the acquisition of Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Limited (TATIL) and TATIL Life Assurance Limited (TATIL Life) from AMCL in 2004. In April 2023, market reach was further expanded through the acquisition of Colonial Fire & General Insurance Company Limited (COLFIRE)⁵. As at December 2025, the Group comprised 10 subsidiaries across 3 territories: T&T, Barbados, and Saint Lucia (Chart A). Further, its wide range of products and services are offered through 4 main segments which include general insurance services, life insurance services, banking services and investments⁶. The Group's total assets stood at TT \$9.5 billion⁷ as at December 2025, while total income generated in 2025

¹ Registered legal entity for the Group.

² ANSA McAL Limited (AMCL) was rated 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 as at May 2026.

³ These include Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), Barbados, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Guyana, Grenada and the Bahamas.

⁴ Financial year runs from January 1 to December 31.

⁵ COLFIRE is a general insurance company in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) that offers services under the general insurance segment of Property, Motor, Liability, Marine and Specialty insurance for both individual and institutional clients.

⁶ General Insurance services include commercial and residential fire, general accident, marine, motor, workmen compensation, group and individual health and rental of property. Life insurance services include individual participating and non-participating life insurance, group life insurance, group annuity and pension. Banking services include asset financing, commercial banking, merchant banking, investment services, securities trading and foreign exchange trading.

⁷ Adjusted to exclude intangible assets and revaluation reserves.

was TT \$795.4 million. The Group's largest segment is general insurance⁸ which accounted for approximately 55% of its total revenue in 2025, followed by banking services (27.5%), life insurance (15.2%) and investment services (2.3%).

In March 2025, the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (CBTT) issued directives to AMCL to:

1. Restructure the Group by establishing a Financial Holding Company (FHC) and a group structure that complies with the Financial Institutions Act (FIA) and the Insurance Act (IA) of T&T and apply for an FHC permit

To that end, in July 2025, the Parent submitted its FHC permit application, restructuring application and supporting proposal to the CBTT with the latter detailing the Group's pre-and post-vesting corporate restructuring activities. Approval for the license is anticipated by the end of 2026. The CBTT has also extended the compliance deadline to July 2027, providing the Group with additional time to establish ANSA Financial Holdings Limited (AFHL) as a new FHC after the license is obtained. Upon completion of the restructuring, AFHL will become the Group's parent company, replacing AMBL. AMBL's operating assets, liabilities, employees and core banking operations will be transferred to ANSA Bank Limited (ABL).

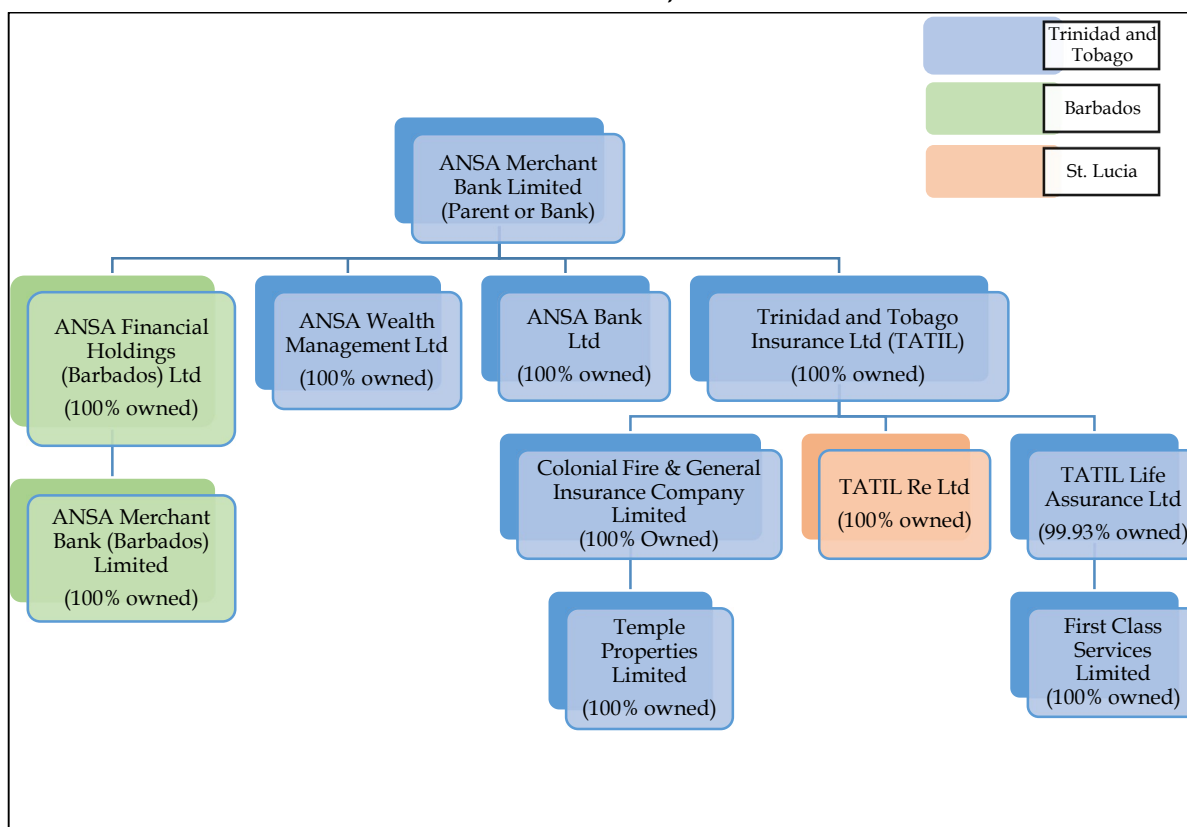
2. Address FIA and IA compliance breaches arising from the Parent's indirect ownership of two investment properties. According to management, the breaches did not arise from a change in legislation but rather from differing regulatory interpretations regarding the permissibility and approval requirements associated with certain real estate holdings within the Group's insurance subsidiaries.

To regularise these matters, the Group began consolidating its real estate holdings through the amalgamation into TATIL. Subject to regulatory approval, these transactions are expected to be completed by the end of 2026. Further, over the medium term, the Group expects to finalize its amalgamation of TATIL with COLFIRE, pending CBTT approval.

⁸ AMBL's general insurance segment is conducted through Trident Insurance operating in solely Barbados, and TATIL and COLFIRE, operating in both T&T and Barbados.

As part of the post-restructuring framework, the Group also intends to establish 2 new subsidiaries, ANSA Trust Services Limited (ATSL)⁹ and ANSA Shared Services Limited (ASSL)¹⁰ over the medium term. Upon completion of these initiatives, the AFHL Group is expected to comprise nine subsidiaries.

Chart A
ANSA Merchant Bank Limited (the Group) Corporate Structure
as at December 31, 2025



Source: AMBL

⁹ ANSA Trust Services Limited (ATSL) will be wholly owned by ANSA Financial Holdings Limited (AFHL). ATSL is expected to provide trust and fiduciary services to ANSA-affiliated entities and third parties, reducing reliance on external trustees and paying agents and generating cost savings for mutual fund administration and bond issuances.

¹⁰ Under the contemplated restructure, the following back-office functions will be centralised into ANSA Shared Services Limited (ASSL): information technology (IT) support, accounting and reconciliation, human resource management (HRM), retail support services and other back office and operational support services.



For more information on AMBL's ratings, please visit www.caricris.com or contact:

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