

MEDIA RELEASE
(For Immediate Release)



Trinidad and Tobago
Securities and Exchange Commission
Levels 22-23 Tower D
International Waterfront Centre
1 Wrightson Road
Port of Spain
Trinidad W.I.

January 6, 2026

TTSEC Issues Notice on the Virtual Assets and Virtual Asset Service Providers Act, 2025

Port of Spain --- The Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission (“TTSEC”) advises market participants and members of the public that the Virtual Assets and Virtual Asset Service Providers Act, Act No. 12 of 2025 (the “VA/VASP Act”) **was enacted by Presidential assent on December 23, 2025**, and is now in effect. The Act establishes a regulatory framework governing the conduct of virtual asset activities as a business in or from within Trinidad and Tobago.

Key Regulatory Position

Under the Act, the conduct of virtual asset activities as a business or on behalf of another person is **temporarily prohibited until December 31, 2026**, except where such activities are authorised by the TTSEC under the Regulatory Sandbox framework established by the VA/VASP Act.

This transitional regulatory measure seeks to:

- prevent illegal scams, money laundering, and terrorist financing associated with virtual asset activities; and
- support the development of a safe, transparent, and well-supervised environment for virtual asset innovation in Trinidad and Tobago.

Who Is Affected?

The Act applies to persons or entities currently engaged in virtual asset activities as a business or on behalf of others, including but not limited to:

- exchange of virtual assets and domestic or foreign currencies;
- exchange between one or more forms virtual assets;
- transfer of virtual assets; and
- provision of financial services related to the issuance or sale of virtual assets.

Note that the Act **does not permit** holding/custody/retention of virtual assets on behalf of another person as a virtual asset activity.

Further, the temporary prohibition does not apply to individuals using virtual assets for personal transactions such as the purchase of goods and services, provided such activity is not conducted as a business.

Key Obligations and Deadlines

Persons or entities operating as Virtual Asset Service Providers (“VASPs”) prior to commencement of the VA/VASP Act are required to note the following statutory timelines:

- Within **30 days of commencement of the Act**, affected VASPs must notify the TTSEC in writing of their operations using the prescribed notification form. Affected VASPs must therefore notify the TTSEC by/before **January 22, 2026**, of their operations.
- Eligible VASPs may apply for entry into the Regulatory Sandbox within the same 30-day period, that is, by/before **January 22, 2026**.
- Where a VASP does not qualify for, or is not granted, entry into the Regulatory Sandbox, it must cease virtual asset activities and notify the Commission of such cessation within fourteen days of expiry of the three-month period, that is, by/before **April 7, 2026**.
- Failure to comply with the requirement in the VA/VASP Act to notify the TTSEC, cease operation, where applicable, may attract significant administrative and criminal penalties.

Regulatory Sandbox

The Regulatory Sandbox provides a controlled framework under which eligible VASPs operating prior to enactment may be authorised by the TTSEC to conduct specified virtual asset activities, subject to strict conditions, supervision, and ongoing compliance with AML/CFT/CPF obligations.

Further Information

Guidance documents, including the following, are available on the TTSEC's website at <https://www.ttsec.org.tt/industry/virtual-assets/>.

- Statutory forms,
- Application instructions,
- Eligibility criteria,
- Fee schedules, and
- Fact Sheet

Applicants are required to submit requisite information and documentation, to:

Chief Executive Officer

Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission
Levels 22 - 23, Tower D International Waterfront Centre
1 Wrightson Road
Port of Spain
Trinidad and Tobago

Email: vaspsandbox@ttsec.org.tt

Persons are encouraged to review the information carefully and to engage with the TTSEC in a timely manner to ensure compliance.

-ENDS-

About the TTSEC: The TTSEC is governed by the Securities Act Chapter 83:02 and is responsible for overseeing the securities market and ensuring that fairness, equity and transparency remain common values in the marketplace. Our vision is to be an innovative regulator of a thriving securities market, enabling economic development for the benefit of all.

Contact: External Affairs and Communication Division
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