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# Govt, Shell sign gas pact

THE GOVERNMENT and Shell Trinidad yesterday signed the definitive agreements relating to various gas-related issues, the Ministry of Energy said yesterday in a statement.

The ministry's statement said yesterday's signing ceremony was linked to high-level discussions that a team led by Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley held with the executive management of Shell in London on gas-related issues in April 2018.

Those discussions led to the appointment of empowered negotiating teams by both sides

to resolve these issues. The teams had their first meeting in August 2018, and following negotiations, a Heads of Agreement was agreed to and executed on May 29, 2019 by the Government and Shell at Shell's head office in the Hague, Netherlands.

Under the terms of the Heads of Agreement, the agreement reached between the Government and Shell comes into effect on the finalisation and execution of the definitive agreements on the various gas related issues.

The definitive agreements among the Government, Shell, the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited and the Heritage Petroleum Company Limited were finalised and executed in a signing ceremony yesterday at the Office of the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries, Tower C, International Waterfront Centre, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain.

"The outcome of negotiations has resulted in improved economic and financial benefits to the country and is a vindication of the Government's decision, as articulated in the 'Spotlight on Energy', to pursue improved returns from the exploitation of the country's hydrocarbon resources," the ministry said.

It added that there has also been a cementing of the positive relationship between Government and Shell, which will redound to the benefit of both par-



**ENERGY DEAL:** Energy Minister Franklin Khan signs one of the definitive agreements on the various gas-related issues with Shell Trinidad at the Ministry of Energy building on the Waterfront in Port of Spain yesterday.

ties and, by extension, to Trinidad and Tobago.

The Government-empowered negotiating team was led by Franklin Khan, the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, and Stuart Young, Minister of

National Security and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister. The Government's team included representatives of Poten and Partners UK Ltd, US Attorneys White and Case LLP and technical advisers.