



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government

MEDIA RELEASE

Seven million dollars allocated to help fight Zika

For Immediate Release

Kent House, Maraval. February 18th, 2016: The Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government has allocated seven million dollars (TT\$7 million) to the Regional Corporations to assist in preventing the spread of the Zika virus.

Fourteen Regional Corporations will each receive TT\$500,000 to boost their vector control efforts as a complement to the eradication exercises already being undertaken by the Ministry of Health.

Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Senator the Honourable Franklin Khan said, "Prevention is better than cure. We are tackling the very root of the problem by focussing on the elimination of mosquito breeding grounds and improving sanitation at the regional level."

Minister Khan added, "We recognise that the real threat to our population is the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito which is the carrier of several viral diseases including Zika, Malaria, Chikungunya and Dengue. Therefore it is critical that we eliminate the mosquito vector to prevent the spread of these diseases."

The funds allocated to the Regional Corporations will assist them in conducting a range of mitigation activities including: removal of bulky waste and white waste, derelict vehicles and tyres; de-silting of minor water courses and drains; clearing and spraying of vacant lots.

Corporate Communications Unit

Kent House, Long Circular Road, Maraval, Trinidad and Tobago
Tel: (868) 628 – 5187 ext. 3353, 3354; (868) 628 – 4449 Fax: (868) 628 – 0432
Website: www.rdlg.gov.tt Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RDLGTT>