



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

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**CLGF hosts Caribbean Regional meeting in Trinidad**

***Kent House, Maraval. March 18, 2016:*** The Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), in collaboration with the Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities (CALGA), the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Local Government Authorities (TTALGA) and the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government will host a regional meeting from March 21-23 in Port of Spain on the theme: ***“Strengthening local government’s role as a partner in development”***.

The CLGF will also take the opportunity to launch a new regional programme in the Caribbean in the presence of several CARICOM Ministers of Local Government, Mayors, Councillors and Technical Advisors.

The regional launch will take place alongside CLGF’s 2016 regional meeting in the Caribbean. The regional launch will include an Opening Ceremony on Monday 21 March, from 9:00am to 10:00am at the Trinidad Hilton. The Keynote Address will be delivered by Senator the Honourable Franklin Khan, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government of Trinidad and Tobago. The Commonwealth Local Government Forum will be represented by its Vice Chairperson, Councillor Philip McPhee (Bahamas), and Deputy-Secretary General, Lucy Slack.

The two-day meeting will be part of CLGF’s EU-funded work in the region to strengthen the role of local government as a partner in development. They will discuss common issues faced by local authorities in the region, in addition to recognising the role of local government in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and strengthening policy for greater and more effective decentralisation and localisation of SDGs at the national level.

On March 23, the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government will lead a private roundtable session on the Trinidad and Tobago local government reform process at its Kent House offices, which will enable local governments in the Caribbean to collaborate and share their experiences.

The media are cordially invited to attend the Opening Ceremony:

DATE: Monday 21 March 2016

VENUE: Trinidad Hilton Hotel, Flamingo Room

TIME: 9am to 10am

Find out more about CLGF – [www.clgf.org.uk](http://www.clgf.org.uk) or follow CLGF on twitter @ CLGF\_News

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