Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Senator Kazim Hosein has been on the ground and working with the Councils of all Municipal Corporations to ensure that essential services are provided to citizens during the current slowdown period.

Minister Hosein has joined Chairman of the Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation Kwasi Robinson to temporary close the Caura Main Road leading to Caura River and other recreational areas as the Government issues social distancing guidelines to flatten the curve and curb the spread of COVID-19 in Trinidad.

During a walkabout in the city of San Fernando with His Worship the Mayor of San Fernando Junia Regrello, Minister Hosein has also appealed to businessmen in the southern city to let good sense prevail by following the current Public Health Ordinance by keeping bars and recreational clubs closed.

As access to food is critical during this period, Minister Hosein has advised the Mayors and Chairmen to give their respective CEOs the directive to increase the frequency of sanitization at all markets and abattoirs. Together with His Worship the Mayor of Port of Spain, Alderman Joel Martinez, CEO Annette Seaforth and Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr Rajendra Navutu, Minister Hosein visited the Port of Spain market to ensure that sanitization works were immediately conducted before the market opened to the public.

Minister Hosein continues to support the Government’s efforts to fight COVID-19 by ensuring that essential services offered by all Corporations remain operational and efficient. He thanks all members of the fourteen (14) Municipal Corporations for their support and commitment to service delivery and reminds us to follow the instructions of the Ministry of Health, obey the law and together we will beat this virus.
WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

(continued)

1
(L-R) Member of Parliament for Tunapuna, the Honourable Esmond Forde, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government Senator the Honourable Kazim Hosein, Inspector Sankar and the Chairman of the Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation, Mr. Kwasi Robinson with an officer at Caura Recreational Facility.

2
(L-R) CEO of the Port of Spain City Corporation, Annette Seaforth, Minister and Rural Development and Local Government Senator the Honourable Kazim Hosein, His Worship the Mayor of Port of Spain Joel Martinez, Chief Medical Officer of Health, POSCC Dr Rajendra Navutu and other public health officials inspect the sanitization of the Port of Spain market.

3
Minister and Rural Development and Local Government Senator the Honourable Kazim Hosein and His Worship the Mayor of San Fernando Junia Regrello engages with a Municipal Police Constable during their walkabout around San Fernando.
The "Stay at Home, Stay Safe" initiative is underway. Social distancing is imperative to limit the spread of COVID-19 and as per Government directive, all parks, beaches, rivers and recreational facilities are temporarily closed to the public. The Trinidad and Tobago Municipal Police Service in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service are carrying out foot and vehicular patrols in all municipalities. They will also be monitoring community activity to ensure that all non-essential businesses remained closed to the public.

Concrete barriers were provided by the Ministry of Works and Transport to ensure that access roads such as the Caura Main Road are temporarily closed. With the assistance of CEPEP, the facility was cleaned before closure. Citizens are urged to avoid large gatherings and limit their contact with persons unless absolutely necessary. The Ministry of Health urges citizens to adhere to the Public Health Ordinance currently in effect.

The Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government is doing its part in this "All-of-Government" approach to flatten the curve of the spread of COVID-19 while continuing its mandate of Putting People First and assures that these are temporary measures that will be in effect until the nation returns to a state of normalcy.
Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Senator the Honourable Haji Kazim Hosein praises the exceptional work and camaraderie displayed by Municipal Police Officers across the fourteen (14) Municipal Corporations in light of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The role of the Municipal Police Service is crucial as the Government fights to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Minister Hosein has ensured that the complement of officers has been increased in order to carry out inspections of public spaces - particularly markets, abattoirs, beaches and rivers, burial and cremation sites and ensure that non-essential businesses remain closed.

Minister Hosein remarked during his tour to several markets around the country, "I am very pleased to see officers on site directing citizens to adhere to the necessary hygiene protocols. This is a very serious situation and we all have to work together if we are to be successful as a nation. I want to thank the Municipal Police for ensuring that social distancing is being maintained while persons are vending and even purchasing goods. Continue to keep our citizens safe during this difficult time."

Above

Senator the Honourable Kazim Hosein, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government during a walkabout with ALL Municipal Police Commanders in Downtown Port of Spain.
In the face of a global pandemic, food security has surged in importance. Our markets and abattoirs play dual socio-economic roles - not only do they provide citizens with access to fresh produce, they are also a source of income for many individuals.

As critical facilities, we must ensure that our markets and abattoirs are protected if we want to have access to them throughout this public health crisis. As noted by Minister Hosein, members of the public and vendors alike must adhere to the Government’s guidelines when conducting business – this includes the practice of proper hygiene and social distancing.

Municipal Police officers are on-site to assist in crowd control and to ensure patrons utilise recently installed hand washing stations before entering the facilities. These public commerce spaces are also scheduled for more frequent sanitation exercises by the Corporations.

When making purchases, persons are advised to follow the guidelines below:

- Practice social distancing - stay 2 metres (6 feet) away from other shoppers and vendors. Several markets have installed space markers on the floors to assist with this!

- Wash your hands with soap before entering the market/abattoir at the hand washing station and also immediately upon returning home. It is also advised that you shower or change into clean clothing. Additionally, all food handlers and vendors are urged to wash hands more frequently, especially in between transactions.

- Purchase required items quickly and exit the premises as loitering will not be tolerated!

The Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government advises citizens that food security remains a top priority of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and, as such, every effort will be made to keep each market and abattoir open to the public during the Government’s “stay at home” initiative. With your help, we can definitely make this happen!

On February 27th 2020, Cabinet agreed to the establishment of a Standing Committee to deal with public health concerns and emerging infectious diseases. The Committee is co-chaired by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of National Security Trinidad & Tobago.

The Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government, due to our role as first responders in natural disasters as well as the services provided by our Public Health Units, is a member of the committee.
COVID-19 has resulted in many businesses shutting their doors to the public as part of efforts to minimise the spread of the virus. However, Municipal Corporations continue to provide essential services while adopting precautionary measures for the safety of staff as well as burgesses.

Services offered by the Public Health and Sanitation Department, Disaster Management Unit and the Trinidad and Tobago Municipal Police Service have continued without abatement. This also includes activities related to water-trucking, garbage collection, markets, abattoirs, cemeteries and crematoriums.

Moreover, municipalities have taken steps to further increase sanitisation levels of offices as well as public spaces under the purview of Corporations which must remain accessible to citizens. These include, but are not limited to, the following measures:

- Provision of hand washing stations
- Staggered work hours and work-from-home arrangements where applicable
- Emphasis on telephone and email communication as opposed to in-person communication where possible
- Issuance of personal protection equipment (PPE) to staff
- Suspension of use of public parks and recreation grounds until further notice
- Increased Municipal Police presence throughout all public spaces to ensure compliance with the public health ordinance which prohibits the operation of non-essential services and public gatherings
YOUR CORPORATION WORKING FOR YOU!

Port-of-Spain City Corporation

Chaguanas Borough Corporation

Princes Town Regional Corporation

Penal/Debe Regional Corporation

Sangre Grande Regional Corporation

Point Fortin Borough Corporation
YOUR CORPORATION WORKING FOR YOU!

San Fernando City Corporation

San Juan/ Laventille Corporation

Mayaro/ Rio Claro Regional Corporation

Port-of-Spain City Corporation

Sangre Grande Regional Corporation