



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister Kazim Hosein assesses the flooding situation in the Mayaro/Rio Claro Region.

January 1st, 2018 Kent House, Maraval – Minister of Rural Development and Local Government Haji Kazim Hosein along with the MP for Mayaro, Mr. Rushton Paray, Permanent Secretary Ms. Desdra Bascombe, Senior Disaster Management Coordinator, Mr. Rishi Siew and members of the technical team from the Ministry are coordinating efforts with Chairman Glen Ram and Councillors of the Mayaro/Rio Claro Regional Corporation to bring relief to the residents who have been affected by the heavy rainfall.

Minister Haji Kazim Hosein encouraged citizens to be their brother's keeper and commence the New Year with good actions saying, "As we start 2018, let us bring renewed hope to those who are less fortunate, to the elderly and to the homeless in our society. I encourage you to extend a helping hand to your neighbours or an elderly person in your community who may reside alone during this period of continuous rainfall; Service to Mankind is service to God and there is always a rewarding feeling when you help others in times of need so I urge you to do good and give back."

Subsequent to the Ortoire River bursting its bank, the Mayaro/Rio Claro Regional Corporation's Disaster Management Unit are out on the field conducting assessments in order to efficiently address the current flooding situation. Reports also indicate that the water levels has begun receding as rains have ceased at this time in the Mayaro region. MP for the area, Mr. Rushton Paray says, "Preparation is key to managing the issue of flooding; we must educate the population and change the culture of the way we treat issues such as these".

Minister Hosein continued to encourage citizens to make use of the 24-hour Hotlines Numbers saying, "All 14 Municipal Corporations have a 24-hr Disaster Management Hotline number and as first responders they remain committed to assisting their burgesses during disasters such as flooding. In case of an emergency such as fallen trees, landslides, or flooding feel free to utilize these hotlines; they have been set up for you the public to have first-hand communication with the people on the ground."

Citizens are kindly advised to be vigilant and proceed with caution when traversing areas with reports of flooding.

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