



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government

Priority: For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister Hosein grants approval for \$1 Million Dollars to ALL Municipal Corporations for COVID-19 measures

April 23rd, 2020. Kent House, Maraval – The Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Senator the Honourable Kazim Hosein, has granted the necessary approval to allow Corporations to utilize a maximum of one million (\$1Mn) dollars from their “Unspent Balances”, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is in accordance with Section 112 (2) of the Municipal Corporations Act, Chapter 25:04.

Pursuant to the Honourable Prime Minister’s directive to ALL Corporations to utilize their unspent balances to implement measures to stem the spread of COVID-19, the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government has been working closely with the Municipal Corporations to ensure that the necessary procedures are followed and requests for utilization of unspent balances are urgently processed.

Most recently, on Monday 20th April 2020, Minister Hosein hosted a virtual meeting with all Mayors and Chairmen to discuss the use of 1 million dollars from their unspent balances as of September 2019, to assist Corporations in providing critical services such as water trucking, more frequent public sanitization exercises, additional personal protective equipment (PPE) to staff and humanitarian aid to burgesses. He emphasized, “These are very difficult times that we are facing and we must be our brother’s keeper in this fight against the Novel Coronavirus. The only way we can win this fight is to work together and put our burgesses first. With the approval to use up to 1 million dollars, each Corporation will be better able to help those in need in their regions, boroughs and cities.”

Senator Hosein further commended the ongoing efforts of the Corporations saying, “I would like to thank all the employees of the 14 Municipal Corporations and those at the Ministry for continuing to work together to ensure that our communities, and by extension our country, remain clean during this crisis. To all the public health, sanitation workers, the very hardworking garbage collectors, our dedicated Municipal Police Officers and all frontline workers, we commend you for the unreserved efforts demonstrated across all municipalities.”

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Minister Kazim Hosein continues to urge members of the public to adhere to the guidelines and instructions of the Government and the Ministry of Health to stay at home and only venture outside the safety of their homes, if absolutely necessary. He further encouraged all Corporations to adopt an ‘All-of-Corporation’ approach by activating their Disaster Management Units and continuing efforts in their Public Health Departments to ensure regular disinfecting and sanitizing of key areas across municipalities such as public transportation hubs, local roads leading to supermarkets, pharmacies and local markets.

During this difficult time, we must all come together and adopt an ‘All-of-Country’ approach to ensuring that best practices are maintained as it relates to personal hygiene and responsible social behaviour. Minister Hosein reiterated, “We must listen to the advice of the experts at the Ministry of Health in order to flatten the curve. We all have our part to play in this crisis and together we will win the fight! The Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government remains ready and prepared to assist in any way possible.”

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