



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

**For Immediate Release**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Minister Hosein: “Team building is critical for effective Municipal Policing.”**

*September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020, Kent House, Maraval* – The Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Senator the Honourable Haji Kazim Hosein, attended the commencement session of a Municipal Police Team Building Seminar at the Old Marabella South Secondary School, yesterday (Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2020).

This two-day seminar is the first of its kind in the history of the Trinidad and Tobago Municipal Police Service and is geared towards strengthening the synergies throughout the force.

Also in attendance were Permanent Secretary Ms. Desdra Bascombe, Assistant Commissioner of Municipal Police Mr Surrendra Sagramsingh, Senior Superintendent Cecil Santana, Senior Superintendent Curtis Belford and the 14 Commanders of the Trinidad and Tobago Municipal Police Service.

During yesterday’s training, which was executed in accordance with COVID-19 safety protocols, Minister Hosein issued a reminder to those present of the importance of working together and with the best interest of the citizens of our beloved country at the forefront saying, “As officers of the law, you must let your voices be heard in order for the progress of the service. However, while giving feedback, it is also important to maintain respect in how you provide suggestions. We can only move forward as one service if we work together and respect each other’s views and opinions. What is being done here is a commendable step as we continue to chart the way forward and I am very honoured to be a part of it.”

Minister Hosein further commended the efforts of the Senior Officials at the Police Academy and the 14 Commanders for coming out to ensure that TTMPs has a forum for pertinent discussions. He assured, “I want you to know that you have my full support and that of the Ministry as we seek to elevate the Trinidad and Tobago Municipal Service.”

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Permanent Secretary, Ms Desdra Bascombe, stated, “Training is like a gift; you can either take it out now and again or you can efficiently use it consistently and, in doing so, experience all of its benefits. This training seminar is critical and I am very happy that we are able to facilitate it. These sessions will be utilized to better formulate the initial 90 days action plan requested by the Honourable Minister which is due in two weeks’ time.”

Also addressing the attendees was ACP Sagrarsingh who emphasised, “Today is a very important day in the history of the Trinidad and Tobago Municipal Police Service. It is an ideal opportunity for us to put our minds together in order to efficiently draft a document that will take the Municipal Police Service forward. I encourage you all to contribute fully - the insight that you can provide based on your collective experience will make a difference.”

ACP Sagrarsingh also quoted from the Government’s 2015 Manifesto which formed a part of the draft policy of local government reform saying, “The Municipal Police is a crucial mandate of this Government that has been outlined in the Vision 2030 - the National Development Strategy of Trinidad and Tobago, as the driving force behind community safety and security.

This team building seminar is being facilitated by Senior Superintendent Curtis Belford who is also responsible for Strategic Training and Development at the Municipal Police Academy in Marabella. This segment addressed key theory and practicum items through team-building exercises as well as set the foundation for the action plan that will be drafted during tomorrow’s session as the central focus of this two-day training seminar is to conceptualise a proposal consisting of short, medium and long-term measures to be implemented throughout the TTMPS.

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*Minister Hosein and Permanent Secretary Desdra Bascombe with Assistant Commissioner of the Municipal Police Mr. Sagramsingh and TTMPs Commanders at Municipal Police Graduation.*

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*Assistant Commissioner of Municipal Police Mr Surrendra Sagramsingh (pictured top left) and Municipal Police Commanders during today's session.*

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