



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

For Immediate Release

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Minister Hosein: “There can be no excuses for disruptions of the garbage collection service.”**

*September 4<sup>th</sup> 2020, Kent House, Maraval* – The Minister of Rural Development, Senator the Honourable Haji Kazim Hosein, has issued a reminder to the fourteen (14) Municipal Corporations of the importance of maintaining robust waste collection schedules.

As the rainy season progresses against the backdrop of COVID-19, the operations of Public Health Departments across municipalities have become even more critical. Minister Hosein lamented that citizens in a few communities recently experienced an interruption in garbage collection services and assures citizens that the Ministry is working closely with all Corporations to minimise such occurrences.

Minister Hosein emphasised, “There can be no excuses for disruptions of the garbage collection service. Garbage collection is more than a priority, it is an essential service extended to every citizen of this nation. As the providers of this service, we must ensure that contractors are held accountable for the proper execution of their duties.” Minister Hosein recounted interruptions in garbage collection services over the years insisting that “the time has come once and for all for this issue to be rectified. When it comes to the public purse, tax payers must have the full benefit of their contributions especially when it comes to essential services.”

Additionally, Senator Hosein noted that Corporations continue to prioritise public health measures and commended all parties involved, “Keeping our nation’s streets clean is about our health as well as our standard of living. Our Corporation workers as well as our devoted CEPEP employees work diligently to keep our surroundings clean. They are supported by our Litter Wardens and Municipal Police officers in applying the law to combat the practices of littering and illegal dumping.”

Minister Hosein also highlighted that eight (8) Municipal Corporations are collaborating with the Solid Waste Management Company Limited (SWMCOL) on the Curbside Recycling Initiative.

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He called on citizens to re-assess their view of waste disposal and adopt recycling practices where possible, “Trinidad and Tobago is on the verge of a cultural shift regarding waste disposal and management. We have all seen the harmful effects of littering and illegal dumping on our health and environment so let us be the change that we so desperately want to see in our communities.”

“Dispose of your garbage responsibly – utilise bins provided or take your garbage with you until it can be properly disposed, put out your garbage in accordance with the collection schedules and make use of the bulk waste collection services offered by the Corporations and SWMCOL.”

The Minister continued, “We all have a role to play in preserving our environment and it starts with holding ourselves accountable for our actions. Let us practice the right thing and in so doing teach the younger generation. We can change this together!”

-END-



*The Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Senator Kazim Hosein, joined by former Chairman of the Diego Martin Regional Corporation, Ms. Susan Hong, during a visit to Upper La Puerta Avenue, Diego Martin last November to resolve an issue of garbage collection.*

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