



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

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister Hosein: “With Local Government Reform, all Municipal Corporations will have to create avenues for additional funding in order to better serve their burgesses.”

15th January, 2021, Kent House, Maraval – In light of articles circulating in the media inciting victimization and unfairness by the Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Senator the Honourable Kazim Hosein has indicated that though the public may not see the benefits of this decision now, with the implementation of local government reform, these measures will benefit all citizens.

Further to communication with the Chairman of the Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation Alderman Kwasi Robinson, it was noted that this matter has been scheduled for implementation over a year now and was also placed on the table by the previous Administration. This decision was taken by the Council on Wednesday 13th January, 2021 where a majority vote was received, thereby having Council’s consent to the adjustments in the fee structure for services such as building plans, food badges and removal of bulk waste. By virtue of the Municipal Corporations Act 1990, the Council is empowered to address such issues and do not require the intervention or approval from the Line Ministry.

Minister Hosein informed saying, “While persons may be upset by the decisions of the Council, we must understand the economic challenges facing not only our country but the world. This increase will benefit the burgesses themselves and is in line with the plans for local government reform.” With the implementation of Local Government Reform, it is monies generated from market fees, wrecking fees, food badges, vending permissions, and rental of Corporation venues that will allow all Municipal Corporations to earn additional revenue which will be put towards better serving their communities.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation like many other Municipal Corporations has been severely impacted financially and cannot afford to effectively operate in the best interest of the people that they serve. In this regard, they must find ways to increase their revenue stream.

Communications Unit

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Accordingly Chairman Kwasi Robinson stated, “There comes a time when difficult decisions must be made and we as local government practitioners have a duty to the people to make such decisions with the benefit of all burgesses at the forefront. We, at the Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation remain committed to efficiently provide the much-needed goods and services to all our burgesses.”

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