



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

Priority: For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER HOSEIN CALLS FOR MORE PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY IN SERVICE DELIVERY

March 15, 2019. Kent House, Maraval – Senator the Honourable Kazim Hosein, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government accompanied by Permanent Secretary Jennifer Daniel headed to Penal on Tuesday March 12th, 2019 as the quarterly meeting of the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Local Government Authorities (TTALGA) was held at the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation.

The meeting of Mayors and Chairmen of fourteen (14) City, Municipal and Regional Corporations was chaired by Anthony Roberts, Chairman of the San Juan/Laventille Regional Corporation. The group met to discuss the concerns of local government representatives who currently serve the interest of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

The matters raised included issues surrounding terms and conditions of employment for staff, the upgrade of office accommodations for Councillors, utilization of the Mayor's Fund and local government reform. In appealing for the introduction of retirement benefits for Councillors, Chairman Roberts reminded his counterparts that former local government representatives such as Premchand Sookoo, former Chairman of the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation served his burgess for approximately thirty (30) years and left with nothing. In response the TTALGA members were advised that their matters were for the Salaries Review Commission, to whom stronger representation as a group could be made.

Minister Hosein reminded the members of TTALGA that despite any challenges, they were all appointed to serve the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. They were urged to focus on productivity and quality customer service with specific emphasis on how they interact with the public. Minister Hosein reiterated that while many local government representatives feel that their job is a thankless one, they should feel proud of their contributions as their work directly touch the lives of citizens. He said "the goal is the same, to serve in a manner as to get the best results in the interest of the people."

He also updated the group of local government reform, saying it was on the government's legislative agenda and scheduled to be tabled in Parliament in the near future. As someone who has spent his entire life in local government service, he assured his Mayors and Chairmen that "it will work".

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Concerns relating to the rehabilitation of communities via improving the conditions of markets and abattoirs, cleaning of illegal dumping grounds, dilapidated building and removal of derelict vehicles were discussed as a plan of action has been put in place for roll out across all corporations. These works will include the installation of new street signs in every district. Minister Hosein did not forget to mention to those in attendance that garbage collection should continue to remain a priority in every community as they strive to maintain productivity and efficiency.

Heads of Corporations also provided updates on the activities of their Disaster Management Units and their on-going education sensitization drive in preparation for this year's rainy season. Minister Hosein advised them to invite the media and members of the public to Statutory Meetings so as to highlight and bring awareness of the significant programmes being undertaken by each Corporation.

END.

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The Honourable Kazim Hosein, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government poses with members of the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Local Government Authorities (TTALGA)

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