



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

Priority: For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister Hosein announces commencement of CERT training programme

March 25, 2019. Kent House, Maraval – Senator the Honourable Kazim Hosein, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government is pleased to announce the commencement of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training programme. It is an initiative of the Ministry's Disaster Management Unit and initially targets five (5) municipalities.

These include the Chaguanas Borough Corporation, Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation, Sangre Grande Regional Corporation, San Fernando City Corporation and the Mayaro/Rio Claro Regional Corporation. The Ministry is pleased to collaborate with the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society in the conduct of training sessions in three areas: Sangre Grande, Mayaro/Rio Claro and Tunapuna/Piarco.

The CERT programme educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, sandbag wall construction, chainsaw use and safety as well as disaster medical operations. CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, which allows them to focus on more complex tasks. Through CERT, the capabilities to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters is built and enhanced.

The CERT Basic Course commenced on Saturday March 16th, 2019. It is a four (4) day training session and will conclude on Sunday April 28th, 2019. It is coordinated

Corporate Communications Unit

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by Senior Disaster Management Coordinator, Jerry David and supported by a highly qualified team of instructors from the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society and the Disaster Management Units from each Corporation. Topics covered include: **Disaster Preparedness, Fire Suppression, Medical Operations Part I, Medical Operations Part II, Light Search and Rescue Operations, Traumatology and Team Organization and ending with a full scale Disaster Simulation.** During each session participants actively work with safety equipment (gloves, goggles, mask) and disaster supplies (bandages, flashlight, dressings). By doing this for each session, participants are building a disaster response kit of items that they will need during a disaster.

In addition to the CERT training, Minister Hosein is committed to ensuring that all infrastructure projects are completed without delays so as to minimize any discomfort to citizens during the upcoming rainy season. These projects would include instalment of bridges, construction of box drains through the Regional Corporations and cleaning and clearing of illegal dumping grounds which also includes dilapidated buildings and removal of derelict vehicles.

Minister Hosein wishes to assure citizens that the Ministry, through the Disaster Management Units, will continue to work assiduously with its national network of organizations to minimize the impact of any natural disaster whether it be an earthquake, storm, hurricane or unusually heavy rainfall.

END.

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Medical Response Simulation being taught by Red Cross Instructor, Mr. Augustus Ford to volunteers at the CERT training session held at the Chaguanas Borough Corporation on Saturday.

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Toco residents emerge as a dynamic group of community emergency response team (CERT) volunteers