



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

Priority: High

MEDIA RELEASE

Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government announces cemetery clean-up drive success

March 13, 2019. Kent House, Maraval - Senator the Honourable, Haji Kazim Hosein wishes to announce that the recently commenced cemetery clean-up exercise has been a resounding success thanks to the co-operation of ALL fourteen (14) Corporations.

Minister Hosein wishes to commend the work of all Mayors, Chairmen and CEOs for their commitment towards this Public Health Campaign. He also wishes to commend the efforts of Gerard Ramharack, Sanitation Foreman III and Project Lead for the programme. They have rallied together showing pride in their communities and great determination; utilizing their resources to ensure that all cemeteries and public spaces under their purview are being cleared and cleaned on a continuous basis. Their dedication to the burgesses they serve shows no bounds.

The Minister had expressed disappointment at the dilapidated and unkempt nature of many of the cemeteries to which he visited in January 2019. Since then he has personally overseen the completion of this project. Minister Hosein maintains his belief that cemeteries are areas of reverence, “where people go to remember their loved ones who have passed, to pay respect to those who have passed on and they should not be in a deplorable condition”.

Since that time, each Corporation has begun to clear their cemeteries of overgrown grass and garbage, repairing and repainting walls and simultaneously planting of ornamental flowers as the beautification drive of the communities continue in each district.

Since the Cemetery Clean up exercise commenced via the 14 Corporations, a total of **seventy –eight (78)** have been cleaned (**public 72, private 6**) with a 100% completion anticipated by the month ending March 2019.

Minister Hosein wishes to emphasize that respect must be shown in our approach to cemetery maintenance and preservation as they are not only the resting places of our loved ones but also heritage sites which house the history of our people and can tell a story about the development of each community in which we reside.

END.

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Minister Kazim Hosein visits uncleared cemetery earlier this year



Roodal Cemetery cleaned and maintained by the San Fernando City Corporation