



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

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister Hosein urges ALL citizens and vendors to observe precautionary measures at the Markets and Abattoirs

March 31, 2020. Kent House, Maraval – Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Senator the Honourable Haji Kazim Hosein is urging both members of the public and vendors to be cautious and adhere to Government’s guidelines when conducting business at the markets and abattoirs.

Minister Hosein recognises the essential role that markets and abattoirs play in providing citizens with fresh produce saying, “Markets provide an essential service and we applaud the efforts of both the vendors and the Municipal Corporations to ensure that these amenities remain accessible to members of the public during this crisis. However, because these facilities are crucial, they must be preserved - we as citizens must be vigilant and follow the law as it relates to proper hygiene and sanitation particularly in light of the present public health challenge.” The Minister further encouraged members of the public to comply with the measures implemented by the fourteen (14) Municipal Corporations at their respective markets and abattoirs to ensure that safety and hygiene protocols are maintained.

Throughout municipalities, additional complements of Municipal Police Officers have been deployed to assist in crowd control and adherence to recent public health ordinances. All Municipal Corporations have scheduled more frequent police patrols and have enforced stern requirements for entry into markets and abattoirs. Increased sanitation measures have also been implemented to ensure regular sanitization of public spaces and social distancing.

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Minister Hosein reminds citizens and vendors alike that the laws of the land must be obeyed in order to protect ourselves and our families. They are asked to exercise calm, be patient, practice social distancing by standing in queue and follow the directives of the Municipal Police Officers.

Persons are advised to follow the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and;

- Stay 2 metres (6 feet away) from persons at all times
- Wash your hands with soap immediately upon returning home and change into clean clothing
- Purchase required items quickly and exit the premises as loitering will not be tolerated

As always, food handlers should, as a matter of good hygiene, practice washing their hands often with soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds. This should be done as a matter of routine, before and after handling food and money, and especially after being in a public place where they may have been exposed to persons coughing or sneezing. Any food handler who is unwell is strongly advised to stay at home and contact the relevant authorities.

The Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government advises citizens that food security remains a top priority of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and, as such, every effort will be made to keep each market and abattoir open to the public during the Government's "stay at home" initiative.

Minister Hosein reiterates the need for us to be our brother's keeper saying, "We are all in this together and if we work together, we will overcome this challenge. Be your neighbour's keeper and encourage them not to leave their homes unless it's absolutely necessary."

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Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Senator Kazim Hosein, tours the San Fernando Market and engages with vendors.



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Minister Kazim Hosein chats with Suzie, a long-standing vendor of the Rio Claro Market, while reviewing the vending facilities at the market.