



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

**Priority: For Immediate Release**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Ministry hosts Local Government Practitioners Orientation Seminar:**  
**Minister Hosein calls for increased productivity.**

*January 23, 2020. Kent House, Maraval* – On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020, the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government hosted a Local Government Practitioners Orientation Seminar at the San Fernando City Hall.

All Mayors, Chairmen, Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), Councillors, Aldermen and Heads of Department of the fourteen (14) municipal corporations gathered for the day-long session. Also present were senior ministry officials and representatives of the Rural Development Company (RDC) as well as the CEPEP Company.

The seminar featured presentations on the Municipal Corporations Act, the relationship between the council and the administration, protocol, etiquette and local government reform as part of the ministry's mechanism to support and strengthen all members of local government in serving their communities.

In addressing the seminar, the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Senator Kazim Hosein, commended all local government practitioners for choosing to serve the people of their community. Minister Hosein urged them to be "true servant-leaders" and to "put people first" in the execution of their mandate.

Senator Hosein also denounced corrupt practices and low productivity levels in corporations calling on CEOs to lead by example saying, "We are being paid by the tax payers of this country – we have to take this job serious(ly)." He cited examples of high employee absenteeism and poor punctuality as contributing factors to the notable decline in productivity.

Senator Hosein said, "Productivity, in my view, is one of the most important aspects of getting the job done...There is no proper management in local government. You, the CEOs and Mayors and Chairmen, the supervisors in every department, you have to make the difference. "

Moreover, the Minister encouraged local government representatives to always be accessible to their burgesses and to advocate on their behalf at every opportunity. Corporation leaders and ministry officials, according to Minister Hosein, will meet regularly to ensure increased communication and collaboration going forward.

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Facilitators at the seminar included the Permanent Secretary - Ms. Desdra Bascombe, Deputy Permanent Secretaries - Mr. Jameel Ameeral-Chadee and Mr. Raymond Seepaul, the Director of Legal Services - Ms. Annalean Inniss and the Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Local Government Authorities (TTALGA) - Mr. Anthony Roberts. Former senator, university lecturer and communications professional, Mr. Omardath Ojar Maharaj, and Mayor of San Fernando, His Worship Junia Regrello, also addressed the seminar.

**-END-**



Above: Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Senator Kazim Hosein, addresses the seminar.

Left: Municipal Police commanders hold discussions following the orientation seminar.

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Attendees at the Local Government Practitioners Orientation Seminar.

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