



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister Kazim Hosein advises citizens to be prepared and work together for tropical storm preparedness

June 19th, 2017, Kent House, Maraval – Minister Kazim Hosein and key personnel from the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government along with stakeholders from multiple agencies were on hand at the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) for a briefing at 1:00 pm this afternoon regarding the weather system approaching Trinidad and Tobago. This briefing session informed all agencies of their respective levels of preparedness and has facilitated coordinated cooperation among them to form an efficient and appropriate first response to any effects of the potential tropical storm.

At this time, the Disaster Management Units at each of the fourteen (14) Municipal Corporations have been mobilized, meaning that vehicles are being prepared and deployed in strategic areas, inventories have been checked, first response teams have been called in, and emergency shelters are being prepared with the necessary resources and personnel. Minister Kazim Hosein advises “the Corporations are the first responders to any potential disaster situation, and will play a pivotal role in ensuring public safety and bringing relief to any affected areas. We are collaborating with all agencies, to ensure that there is minimal disturbance to the regular operations of businesses, and that all citizens remain safe until the weather system passes.” The Minister reached out to all Mayors and Chairmen earlier today, and commends their quick response to ensure preparedness in every community.

All agencies are in a state of readiness to respond to interference from the expected weather system. Minister Kazim Hosein urges all citizens to take the necessary precautions and work together to assist in their communities where necessary. He further appeals to all volunteers and donors to support any relief efforts. “I urge citizens to help one another to restore our nation after the storm passes. We are expecting heavy rains and high winds, and this can cause flooding and damage to property. So people will need assistance to clean up, as well as items such as drinking water and non-perishable foods. We must all do our part. Coming out of the National Clean-Up Campaign, we saw the spirit of volunteerism sweep across this nation, and every Corporation set up a Volunteer Network. I am appealing to all volunteers to mobilize once it is safe to do so, and help your family, friends and neighbours in the wake of this storm.”

The public is advised to contact the Disaster Management Units of their respective Municipal Corporations for guidance on how to prepare for the storm, and are directed to the websites and Facebook pages for the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government and the ODPM, as well as the Kazim Hosein Facebook page for contact information and further updates.

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