



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

## **MEDIA RELEASE: CEPEP gets back to basics**

***Kent House, Maraval: September 8<sup>th</sup> 2016.***

Senator the Honourable Franklin Khan, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, met recently with members of the Board of Directors of the Community-based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP) Company Limited at Kent House. This follows the Cabinet meeting on Thursday August 25, 2016, during which the Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, announced the reassignment of CEPEP from The Ministry of Public Utilities to the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government.

It is Government's intention to eventually disaggregate the budgetary allocation between the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government and the Ministry of Works and Transport Trinidad & Tobago.

Minister Khan stated, "My major concern at this time with CEPEP is the lack of productivity and value for money. There are currently 265 contractors, some 12,000 employees and a monthly payroll of TT\$50 Million. Yet the whole country is 'in bush'. The CEPEP Board and Management have to take responsibility for production and performance. I will be holding them accountable for that."

CEPEP was originally conceived as an entrepreneurial incubator programme whereby unemployed individuals would receive basic training in skillsets that would enable them to form community-based limited liability companies to offer basic environmental protection and enhancement services within their communities. Minister Khan shared his vision of the way forward for CEPEP, "In looking forward, we must look back to original intent. We must remember the real reason for the creation of CEPEP. The programme has been criticised for all kinds of things, including painting stones all over the country, but at the heart of the matter CEPEP was meant to bring communities together and make communities a cleaner, brighter and safer place to live."

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### **Corporate Communications Unit**

Kent House, Long Circular Road, Maraval, Trinidad and Tobago  
Tel: (868) 628 – 5187 ext. 3353, 3354; (868) 628 – 4449 Fax: (868) 628 – 0432  
Website: [www.rdlg.gov.tt](http://www.rdlg.gov.tt) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RDLGTT>



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Under the current Local Government portfolio of the Ministry, the CEPEP contractors will provide services that complement, rather than duplicate, the work already carried out by the fourteen (14) Municipal Corporations. Even as Local Government Reform will give greater autonomy to the Municipal Corporations, the CEPEP contractors will be engaged in such a way that allows for gainful employment of appropriately skilled persons, providing services that are truly required within the different geographical boundaries. Additionally, CEPEP will play a greater role in Rural Development.



*From left to right: Mr. Trevor Lynch (CEPEP Chairman), Ms. Nancy Wilson-Joseph (Director), Minister Franklin Khan, Ms. Susan Hong (Deputy Chairman), Ms. Solange Henry (Director), Ms. Farah Mohammed (Director) and Mr. Chinua Alleyne (Director).*

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