



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

MEDIA RELEASE

United Nations International Day of Rural Women

Kent House, Maraval. October 14th, 2016: The Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government is pleased to partner with the Network for Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago in celebration of this year's International Day of Rural Women on October 15th 2016.

We take this opportunity to recognize the contributions of this nation's women and particularly those women who have taken on the role of mothers nurturing life within rural communities. These women daily leave their mark on society by their hard work, passion and dedication to developing their rural communities through advocacy, agriculture, education, entrepreneurship, religion, sport and other areas of activity. Working together we intend to improve the lives of rural women who play a significant role in keeping these communities together.

By its accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Government of Trinidad and Tobago expressed its commitment to the global struggle to eliminate discrimination faced by women; and the promotion of their enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Encouraged by the review of its implementation by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000, the Government also pledged itself to implement the actions identified in the Beijing Platform for Action. Non-governmental and community-based women's organizations have assisted the Government in implementing the Convention.

While the Office of the Prime Minister has sought to address all forms of gender inequality and inequity through its Gender and Child Affairs Division, the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government is doing its part to ensure that critical projects are engaged in rural areas to provide greater access to economic opportunities and connectivity for all rural residents.

The Cabinet appointed Oversight Committee on Rural Development is in the process of drafting a national policy on rural development which takes into account the most vulnerable groups of our society: women, children and the elderly. Through targeted policy intervention, women will be able to access a wider range and better quality of services within rural areas rather than having to migrate to urban areas, uprooting themselves from their beloved rural communities.

Through projects such as the Moruga Fishing Port and facilities; the upgrade of the main arterial road from Princes Town to Moruga; the construction of a port in Toco and establishment of a Toco to Tobago ferry; this Government is demonstrating its commitment to developing rural communities, beginning with the most neglected regions, while preserving the rural way of life.

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 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RDLGTT>