



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

MEDIA RELEASE: Minister Hosein is ready to lead the Local Government Reform

Kent House, Maraval. November 1st, 2016: Senator the Honourable Kazim Hosein, newly appointed Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, assumed duties today at Kent House.

In a handover meeting with Senator the Honourable Franklin Khan, who has been reassigned to the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries, Minister Hosein, assured, “The foundation laid by Minister Khan in terms of Local Government Reform is solid and I will now have the task of leading the Ministry and the 14 Municipal Corporations in this vast transformation process.”

Minister Hosein added, “The time for Local Government Reform has come. I have served in the trenches of local government for the past 40 years. I worked in almost every department of the San Fernando City Corporation, from the ground up, and I have a good relationship with all the Corporations. While it is true that successive administrations have proposed reform in various forms, this time it will come to pass because there is widespread support from the people. Equally important, there is the political will and firm support by the leader of the Government, the Honourable Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Rowley to make this happen.”

The Draft Policy on Local Government Reform was submitted to the Finance and General Purposes Committee of Cabinet in August 2016 and was subsequently approved by Cabinet in September just prior to the budget presentation. The Cabinet approval has been officially gazetted so the Draft Policy document is now rendered public.

It can be viewed on the website of the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government: <http://rdlg.gov.tt/~media/Resource%20Library/Approved%20Draft%20Policy%20on%20Local%20Government%20Reform%2028-10-2016.ashx>

While the current Local Government Elections carded for November 28th 2016 will take place according to the old policy in place, the necessary legislative amendments are already being drafted by the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs and legislation will be tabled in Parliament in early 2017.

The Cabinet-appointed Technical Committee on Local Government Reform continues its work on an implementation plan for rolling out the policy. This will follow a phased approach designed to give all stakeholders sufficient time to understand and embrace the proposed changes.

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