



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

**Minister Kazim Hosein visits Arima to assess damages after freak storm**

*Kent House, Maraval. November 7th, 2016:* After a freak storm caused severe damage in Arima on Saturday night, Senator the Honourable Kazim Hosein, newly appointed Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, was on site in the borough on Sunday. He assessed the damages along with the former Deputy Mayor of Arima Lisa Morris-Julian, Members of Parliament for Arima and D’Abadie/O’Meara, the Honourable Anthony Garcia and the Honourable Brigadier General Ancil Antoine respectively, the head of the Arima Disaster Management Unit Ms. Deborah Ng-Saye Shoon, members of the Municipal Police service, candidates for the Arima Borough Council and other supporting staff.

The specific districts affected include Tumpuna Court, Jean Trace, Jean Street, Highly Avenue, Concorde Gardens, One Way Drive, Printeryville Malabar Phase I and II, Leotaud Lands, Churchill Circular and Arjin Baksh-Arima.

The heavy rainfall resulted in the collapse of the Subero Street Bridge and power outages across the borough. Minister Hosein relayed that this constitutes a natural disaster for Arima as there are hundreds of affected persons. “Through local government, we are committed to assisting the families affected as far as possible. I am thankful for the quick response of the Arima Disaster Management Unit in all their clean-up activities and their continued monitoring as they restore the borough to normalcy,” said the Minister. He liaised with the Director of Bridges at the Ministry of Works and Transport, Mr. Navin Ramsingh, to get the assessment of damages and repairs needed. CEPEP was also contacted to support clean-up activities, and T&TEC was called out to restore power.

The Disaster Management Unit has already distributed mattresses and submersible sand bags to families in the area. Additionally, it has reached out to the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services on behalf of those affected. The Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government is collaborating with the Ministry of Works and Transport and the Arima Borough Corporation’s Disaster Management Unit to repair the Subero Street Bridge. The scope of works required was completed on Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Minister Hosein concluded by saying, “As I begin this new portfolio, I remain committed to ensuring the timely and efficient delivery of goods and services to all citizens, following natural disasters, and especially in rural areas. I will continue to monitor the restoration efforts here closely to ensure that all the families in Arima who have experienced losses can get some form of assistance. I am very happy to note that people voluntarily initiated personal clean-up exercises immediately following the storm and encourage more decisive action of this nature to help our friends and neighbours as well.”

**Corporate Communications Unit**

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*Caption: Minister Kazim Hosein (far right) is briefed by (far left to right) Arima Borough Corporation Disaster Management Coordinator, Ms. Deborah Ng-Saye Shoon in presence of former Alderman Bertiney Pollidore, Minister of Education and MP for Arima, Mr. Anthony Garcia and former Deputy Mayor of Arima Lisa Morris-Julien*

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