



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

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister Kazim Hosein pledges support to Matelot and Grande Riviere communities

Kent House, Maraval, December 2, 2016: Minister Kazim Hosein along with Minister of Works and Transport Rohan Sinanan, conducted a site visit yesterday of the Matelot and Grande Riviere communities affected by the torrential rainfall, to assess the extent of the damages. They were accompanied by Member of Parliament for Toco/Sangre Grande Glenda Jennings-Smith and Chairman of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation Martin Terry Rondon.

“As rural areas, these communities are a priority for the Ministry, and we want to ensure that we can return the area to a sense of normalcy in the shortest possible time. The Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government will do its part in supporting the communities of Matelot and Grande Riviere and the efforts of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation as we complete the assessment of works that need to be done and repairs required,” said the Minister.

Both Ministers were in contact with WASA and T&TEC to ensure that public utilities in the area could be restored in a timely manner. “The immediate goal is to bring supplies into the area to assist the families and organise clean-up efforts. I am asking the neighbouring Corporations of Arima, Tunapuna/Piarco and Mayaro/Rio Claro to lend clean-up assistance as far as they can, and to the public in general to donate supplies, clothing, non-perishable food items and drinking water to these communities in need,” he appealed.

Minister Hosein thanked the members of the business community, the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force and the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard who have already mobilised to bring donations and relief items. Minister Hosein also expressed gratitude to Chairman Rondon, the Corporation’s Disaster Management Unit, the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM), the Community-based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP) and other state agencies for their rapid response to the disaster.

Donations from the public can be dropped off at the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation, Ramdass Street, Sangre Grande. The Engineering Department of the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government has also begun a collection drive amongst employees of non-perishable food items for the affected communities.

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