



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

MEDIA RELEASE:

Minister Hosein launches national Clean-Up Campaign

Kent House, Maraval. December 29th 2016: Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Senator the Honourable Kazim Hosein, met with the Mayors, Chairmen and Chief Executive Officers of all fourteen Municipal Corporations yesterday at the San Fernando City Corporation Auditorium.

Following on the Local Government elections held exactly one month ago, Minister Hosein took this opportunity to meet with all the recently elected Local Government representatives to launch a nationwide Clean-Up Campaign scheduled for mid-January 2017. Under his previous tenure as Mayor of San Fernando, Minister Hosein spearheaded a successful clean-up initiative in 2015 in close collaboration with the San Fernando Volunteer Network.

“Local Government elections are over. We are all fortunate to have been placed in positions of service in order to help the people. It is time to roll up our sleeves and get down to work. In San Fernando we did it for just one week but this nationwide initiative will be done over a period of six (6) months. Cleaning up our country and keeping it clean requires a change in mind-set and we expect to achieve this change by mobilising all our stakeholders as well as private and corporate volunteers,” said Minister Hosein.

Also delivering remarks was Permanent Secretary in the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Ms. Desdra Bascombe. She indicated that a note had been sent to Cabinet regarding this initiative which encompasses a robust public education campaign, involving outreach to schools and areas with special needs.

Minister Hosein added, “I have found that people want to give back to society but they just don’t know how. It is up to us to find ways to enable our citizens to contribute to nation-building and restore our national pride. We are therefore calling on all citizens to do their part, in their own community together with their respective Municipal Corporations so we can make this country a cleaner, brighter place to live.”

Corporate Communications Unit

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Member of Parliament for San Fernando West and Attorney General, the Honourable Faris Al-Rawi, also attended the meeting and brought brief remarks. The Attorney General indicated that the Government's legislative agenda will bring pertinent legislative amendments in the first half of 2017 which would see stiffer fines for unkempt lots and derelict vehicles as well as waste recycling legislation. The Attorney General sent a message to those in attendance that the six-month duration of the Clean-Up campaign should be perceived as a grace period not only to get citizens into the habit of cleaning up after themselves, but also to allow for the implementation of the laws of Trinidad and Tobago. Attorney General Al-Rawi warned that laws will be stringently applied by the respective Municipal Corporations once the grace period is over.

In closing the meeting, Minister Hosein signalled his intention to visit all the Municipal Corporations in Trinidad in due course and to host a follow-up meeting regarding the Clean-Up campaign at the Chaguanas Borough Corporation in the near future.



Photo: Minister Hosein shares his plan for a national Clean-Up campaign with Local Government officials

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