



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

MEDIA RELEASE

Big Week for Housing sector as Minister Turns Sod for New Housing Development and Delivers Keys to New Homeowners

The Honourable Randall Mitchell, Minister of Housing and Urban Development, moved one step closer to reducing the housing shortage along the East West Corridor as he turned the sod for a brand new housing development site at Bon Air South, Arouca on Wednesday 07 September, 2016. He was ably assisted by the Honourable Camille Robinson-Regis, Minister of Planning and Development and Member of Parliament for Arouca/Maloney who, in her remarks to attendees, underscored the benefits of this new housing development to her constituency and the overall nation's housing stock.



HM Randall Mitchell with Planning & Development Minister and MP for Arouca/Maloney, the Hon. Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis turning the sod at Bon Air South. They are flanked on the left by Deputy Speaker of the House and MP for Tunapuna, Esmond Forde and Chairman of the Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation, Alderman Edwin Gooding. On the right by Minister for Social Development and Family Services and MP for Lopinot/Bon Air West, HDC Chairman Mr. Newman George and the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Ms. Simone Thorne-Mora.

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On Saturday September 10, Minister Mitchell moved the activity to San Fernando where he delivered keys to sixty-five recipients who were delighted to become new homeowners.

These activities continue to highlight Government's commitment to augmenting the nation's housing stock, despite the country's present economic challenges, and in so doing provide affordable attractive homes to qualifying applicants of the Ministry's Housing Programme.

Minister Mitchell also indicated that his Ministry and its implementation agency, the Housing Development Corporation (HDC) will continue to explore initiatives that will assist in broadening the nation's housing base, such as the Private/Public Partnership model. This proposal will effect greater engagement of the private sector to provide financial and other resources to bear on the construction industry which will in turn assist with the country's economic recovery.

In addition, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the HDC are working assiduously to complete unfinished housing projects in Diego Martin, San Fernando, Chaguanas and Point Fortin by year's end, at considerable cost to the State. As the Ministry strengthens and expands its housing programme, Minister Mitchell says there will be more sod turning events in Harmony Hall, Malabar, Moruga, Mount Hope and Trestrail in Arima to meet the anticipated target of 1000 housing starts in keeping with the HDC's 2016 construction programme.



HM Mitchell with HDC's Chairman Newman George and the Ministry's PS, Ms. Simone Thorne Mora with new Homeowners and their families

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As recipients received their keys last Saturday (September 10), Minister Mitchell urged them to convert their License to Occupy agreements to mortgages as soon as possible so that the HDC can invest in more housing developments to the redound of the national community. These new homeowners received keys to homes in several communities in Central and South Trinidad, namely Carlsen Field, Fairfield, Oasis Greens, Cypress Hills, Gomez Trace, Lake View and Pier Road.

According to the Minister, the Government remains committed to breaking down barriers, keeping costs down, and providing housing solutions in an equitable and transparent manner in keeping with the Cabinet's approved allocation policy.

Members of Parliament for adjacent constituencies were in attendance at the Ministry's events last week, as well as local Government representatives, business leaders, community stakeholders, Ministry and HDC's executives and staff.

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