



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Housing

World Habitat Day 2025-October 6

Message from Dr. The Honourable David A. Lee, Minister of Housing



Today, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago stands with the United Nations (UN) and the global community in observing *World Habitat Day 2025*, under the theme “*Urban Crisis Response*.”

World Habitat Day, commemorated annually on the first Monday in October, offers us a moment of reflection – a time to examine the state of our towns and cities and to reaffirm the fundamental human right to adequate shelter. It also signals the beginning of **Urban October** – a month-long campaign focused on advancing dialogue and action around the development and future of our urban spaces.

This year’s theme is both timely and urgent. Across the globe, and here at home, our urban communities are grappling with a range of complex challenges —climate change, flooding, strained infrastructure, overcrowding, pollution and ever-growing demand for housing. These issues are not abstract — they affect real lives, particularly those of our most vulnerable citizens. Addressing them demands not only awareness, but **coordinated, sustained action**.

As **Minister of Housing**, I fully recognise that the responsibility of creating **resilient, inclusive, and sustainable communities** cannot rest with government alone. This is a **shared national mission** — one that requires meaningful partnerships across all sectors: civil society, private industry, academia, international agencies, and — most critically — the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Since assuming office, the Ministry of Housing has remained focused on a **holistic approach** to housing and urban development — one that goes far beyond constructing houses. We are committed to building **communities** where individuals can thrive, businesses can grow, and families can feel secure.

At the core of our work is a dedication to people: to those in search of safe and affordable shelter, to communities that need revitalisation, and to every citizen striving for the opportunity to build a better future.

In support of this mission we have engaged with a range of key stakeholders — including the High Commissioner of India to Trinidad and Tobago, international financial institutions, Habitat for Humanity Trinidad and Tobago, the UWI Faculty of Engineering, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, and the Blind Welfare Association to ensure that our housing policies remain inclusive, future-focused, and aligned with international best practices.

But let me be clear — **we cannot do this alone**.

We call on **every citizen** to play a role in building the future we all deserve. Be responsible stewards of your communities. Honour your financial and social commitments. Care for your environment. And support one another. We urge the **private sector** to continue partnering with us in developing **innovative, affordable housing solutions**. And we welcome the **ongoing support of our regional and international allies** as we work together toward our shared development goals.

This Government remains steadfast in its commitment to **improving the quality of life for all citizens**. My ministerial colleagues — **Senator, the Honourable Anil Roberts and Senator, the Honourable Phillip Alexander** — join me in extending warmest wishes to the people of Trinidad and Tobago, and to communities around the world, as we mark this important occasion - **World Habitat Day 2025**.

Let us remember that housing is not just about buildings — it is about **dignity, security, and hope**. It is about creating the foundation from which families grow, children learn, and communities thrive. Only through shared responsibility can we continue to provide homes and opportunities for all. As our nation’s motto reminds us: “**Together We Aspire, Together We Achieve**.”

On this World Habitat Day, let us commit — as a nation — to building a future where **no one is left behind**, where **every citizen has a place to call home**, and where our urban spaces become symbols of **innovation, resilience, and shared prosperity**.

I thank you.

Dr. The Honourable David A. Lee M.P.

Minister of Housing

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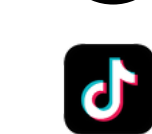
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