



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Housing

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister Lee Calls for Innovation and Partnership to Advance Urban Transformation

Port-of-Spain, September 7, 2026 – Minister of Housing, Dr. the Honourable David A. Lee, today delivered opening remarks at the China-Caribbean Urban Development and Transformation Forum, where he underscored the importance of innovation, technology and strategic partnerships in shaping the future of housing, cities and communities.

The Forum, held at The BRIX Autograph Collection, brought together Government officials, regional representatives and professionals from the urban development, housing, construction and infrastructure sectors to exchange ideas and explore opportunities for cooperation.

During his address, Minister Lee noted that urban transformation had evolved beyond the construction of buildings, roads and infrastructure. Rather, he said, development must create communities where people could live with dignity, families could feel safe and secure, businesses could thrive and communities could withstand future social, economic and environmental challenges.

The Minister highlighted housing as central to this transformation, noting that the Government had placed housing and urban development at the centre of its development agenda. Through the Housing Development Corporation (HDC), Public-Private Partnerships and innovative financing models are being pursued as part of the Government's commitment to deliver 20,000 affordable and sustainable homes.

Minister Lee also highlighted the Ministry's work with stakeholders to advance Smart Cities in Trinidad and Tobago, utilising digital data and technology to improve transportation systems, public services and urban planning. He noted that efforts to improve internet accessibility and other forms of digital development within strategic communities were progressing, while China's experience in Smart City development continued to provide useful insights for Trinidad and Tobago.

These efforts complement the Government's National Revitalization Blueprint, announced by Prime Minister, the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar. More than ten flagship projects have been identified to help transform the country's physical and economic landscape, requiring significant development across buildings, roads, drainage, transportation systems and other critical infrastructure.

Against this backdrop, Minister Lee encouraged greater exploration of emerging approaches such as prefabricated and modular construction, smart infrastructure, digital planning, renewable energy, energy-efficient buildings and innovative financing models.

He stressed that the question was not simply what could be built, but "How can we build better, faster, more sustainably and at a cost our citizens can afford?"

Minister Lee also welcomed opportunities for deeper China-Caribbean cooperation, noting that China's experience in urban development, infrastructure, housing, technology and large-scale project delivery presented valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange and collaboration. He emphasised that such partnerships should be founded on mutual learning and shared development objectives.

In closing, Minister Lee called for the Forum to translate dialogue into practical opportunities for cooperation, investment and action, while ensuring that the benefits of urban transformation reached the communities and families that needed investment most.

"Let us build smarter. Let us build stronger. Let us build together," Minister Lee concluded.



Dr. the Honourable David A. Lee, Minister of Housing, delivers the opening remarks at the China-Caribbean Urban Development and Transformation Forum.



Minister Lee alongside fellow participants at the China-Caribbean Urban Development and Transformation Forum.

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