



# **Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts**

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2017**

**2:00pm**

## **Sod-turning Ceremony** **Taroudale Community Centre**

### **Remarks Address**

**Presented by:**

**Dr. the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly,  
Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts**

## **SALUTATIONS:**

- The Honourable Mr. Randall Mitchell, Minister of Housing and Urban Development and Member of Parliament for San Fernando East
- Chairman of UDECOTT, Mr. Noel Garcia
- Other officials of UDECOTT
- Permanent Secretary, Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts, Ms Angela Edwards
- Other staff of the Ministry
- Residents of Taroudale
- Members of the Media

Good afternoon

I've never been so happy to wear a pair of boots in my life – a little red going there so I am representing the red, white and black today. In wearing these boots means that something is happening in Taroudale. It means that there is work afoot to bring to you, your long awaited community centre. Just as recent as last week I had a group in my office petitioning with me for their community centre. There are community groups, there are Members of Parliament every single Member of Parliament, both government and opposition petitions for community centres and community groups' petition.

Why is this such an important building? As I look around at all the houses of Taroudale and it speaks its own message. Where do a community meet? Where do they gather? Where do they sit down and decide on the plans for the community? Where do the NGOs come and give their offering to the community? Where do the children meet? Where do the men's group meet, women's group, children's group and most importantly where do they practice for Best Village programme. All of this happen in a community centre and we have so many around the country. But what is becoming more telling is the fact that every little community now, wants to have whether it is however small, a place that they can call their own to gather and to bond as a community; and really that is where the essence of community development happens. As the Ministry is task with Community Development we are so please when we deliver a community centre to any community.

We have delivered 12 community centres within the last few months since September 2015 and we have been going on this rounds of sod-turnings. I want to recognise the hard work being done by UDECOTT to satisfy the need for community centres all over the country. They have been giving yeoman service on this and we look forward to them giving even more as the demand is very great. In this time in Trinidad and Tobago where we are having so much upheavals in communities, all the crime we see happening in the country, takes place in communities where people lives. At this time, it becomes even more important for this government to ensure fiscal challenges or not, each community is serve by a centre. So, we are systematically taking on that job of ensuring that we deliver community centres to the communities.

Unfortunately, we cannot do all at once, but it is a systematic phase basis of delivering community centres. So, we are happy to be here in Taroudale, I am happy to be here in my boots today. I am certain between 10-12 months we will be walking in my heels because at that point there will be a community centre in Taroudale to serve your needs cater for by your Member of Parliament, Mr. Randall Mitchell and done by UDECOTT in partnership with the Ministry and we will all reap the benefits of that and this community entirely.

I thank you.