

D'Abadie/O'Meara gets new sporting lights and upgrades to electricity service

Basketball enthusiasts of Boys Lane, D'Abadie immediately took to the basketball court to test out their new lights, as T&TEC concluded its latest public illumination project on March 22.

Speaking at a formal ceremony to commission the lights, T&TEC's Chairman, Keith Sirju, revealed that the illumination of the Boys Lane Basketball Court was only one effort among several T&TEC initiatives in the area. He told the residents of improvements in reliability in the region, such as the expansion of the capacity of the O'Meara sub-station from 9MVA to 16MVA and the upgrade of the Railway Road 12kV feeder from that substation in May/June 2015. In addition, there is an improved supply from the Arouca 12kV feeder out of the Five Rivers Substation, as a result of the installation of a new 12kV switchboard last May. Mr. Sirju noted that the improvements were "designed to better serve residential needs and to facilitate growth and development the area."

As the implementing agency for the national Public Lighting Programme, T&TEC has successfully illuminated

over 300 recreational facilities - grounds, parks, and courts. Mr. Sirju noted that the Boys Lane Basketball Court was the third facility to be commissioned for the year and that the new infrastructure, which illuminates both the Boys Lane Basketball Court and the adjacent Netball/Tennis Court, consisted of fourteen-1500 Watt flood lights on five-21-meter poles, installed by T&TEC's Public Lighting Department.

Before taking to the court after the ceremony, the Member of Parliament for D'Abadie/O'Meara, the Honourable Brig. Gen. (Ret'd) Ancil Antoine, also played double-duty, delivering the feature address in his role as Minister of Public Utilities. He told the residents that "the illumination of this basketball court is, in many ways, an investment into your lives at the level of the individual, the family and the collective."

In addition to the Minister, other guests in attendance included His Worship, the Mayor of Arima, Alderman George Hadeed; Deputy Chairman of T&TEC Glenford Cyrille, Board Commissioners John Chapman and Clifford Campbell



Antoine in a lay-up against a resident as they experience the new lights on Boys Lane Basketball Court

and General Manager Kelvin Ramsook and Councillor for D'Abadie/Carapo, Derek La Guerre.

The ceremony concluded with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque and the much anticipated switching on of the recreation lights.



T&TEC's Chairman, Keith Sirju and the Minister of Public Utilities and Member of Parliament for D'Abadie/O'Meara, the Honourable Brigadier General (Ret'd) Ancil Antoine shake hands, after the unveiling of a commemorative plaque to mark the illumination of the Boys Lane Basketball Court. Looking on are (l-r) Boys Lane Youth and Culture Committee President, Delano La Croix; Board Commissioner, Clifford Campbell; and Alderman Roodal Lalman.