



Media Release

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Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission.

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VISION - Leadership in Energy Delivery, Excellence in Customer Service... enhancing the quality of life for all.

MISSION - To provide a safe, reliable, high quality electricity supply, in an environmentally responsible manner, utilizing best practices, through empowered employees committed to excellence and customer satisfaction.

December 3rd 2020

Minister visits Tobago to discuss electricity service

The Minister of Public Utilities, the Honourable Marvin Gonzales, on Monday November 30th, met with the Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly, the Honourable Ancil Dennis and the Secretary of Settlements, Urban Renewal and Public Utilities, Assemblyman Clarence Jacob, together with T&TEC officials to discuss the delivery of electricity services to the people of Tobago.

The Minister's visit to Tobago followed a power outage that occurred on November 25, which left a large part of the island without electricity for just under one hour.

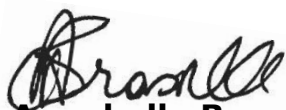
Minister Gonzales explained that he felt his presence was necessary to demonstrate his commitment to work with the THA and T&TEC to move public utilities into a new era. He said that the services provided by utilities should not be taken for granted, and they are especially critical during this Covid-19 pandemic, with online schooling and professionals working from home.

With delivery of a reliable electricity service being a key issue for Tobago in particular, Minister Gonzales was also keen to learn of T&TEC's plans to deal with unplanned interruptions. Following meetings and a tour of the Cove Power Station, he commended T&TEC's level of professionalism and the technology at the plant. He expressed confidence that, having identified areas in need of improvement, the "competent, professional and committed team" will implement the necessary plans for such improvement.

Regarding last week's power outage, T&TEC's General Manager, Mr. Kelvin Ramsook, explained that it was an isolated incident which occurred during the recommissioning of a generating unit at the Cove Power Station. The machine had recently completed scheduled maintenance and a voltage anomaly developed during the restarting process. This caused the other machines, which were connected to the first, to trip, as the safety mechanisms were

triggered. The machines were restarted and power was restored, on a rolling basis starting approximately 30 minutes later. Mr Ramsook advised that with approximately 90 megawatts of installed capacity, Tobago has almost twice the generating capacity to meet its demand. Notwithstanding this, he gave the assurance that T&TEC will examine what went wrong, with a view to improving its service and minimising the number of disruptions in the future.

Minister Gonzales added that the issue of reliability of electricity to the island will be monitored and assures citizens of his commitment to work with T&TEC to ensure that whatever is required to maintain a quality supply, will be prioritised.



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