

**MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE  
NORTH EASTERN SETTLEMENT  
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**AN ADDRESS**

**DR. THE HONOURABLE RUPERT T. GRIFFITH  
MINISTER OF TOURISM  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**&**

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR TOCO SANGRE GRANDE**

**Date: Monday March 12, 2012**

**Venue: Sangre Grande**

**Time: 4.30pm**

- The Honourable Nizam Baksh, Minister of Community Development
  - Mr. Keshwar Maharaj, Chairman of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation and other Councillors
  - Mrs. Susan Corbett, Director of Community Development and other officials from the Ministry of Community Development
  - Residents of Sangre Grande
  - The Media
  - Ladies and Gentlemen
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This is indeed a happy moment for me as we open the North Eastern Settlement Community Centre in Sangre Grande.

As Member of Parliament for the Sangre Grande area, I am quite elated that at long last the residents of my constituency, especially the youth, can have a place for recreation, education and lifelong learning.

This facility will provide amongst others, a place for the hosting of much needed training programs for our youth, a centre for social gatherings and a host of other activities that will be relevant and useful to hundreds of residents.

This is an aesthetically pleasing and functional building. It is envisaged that it will deliver services and programmes that are responsive to the needs of the communities in the north east part of Sangre Grande.

I think parents gathered here this afternoon can be confident that their children can continue their education and have clean fun in a very healthy, safe and stimulating place.

The North Eastern Settlement Community Centre is ample evidence of the steadfast commitment of this People's Partnership Government to serve the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

The positive impact of this community centre will be seen in the next couple of months and years as we roll out the many initiatives to strengthen community life and increase the skills levels of residents within this area and therein addressing the challenges of poverty, unemployment and the economic growth of the Sangre Grande region.

Just to mention a few of these initiatives:

1. Opening of an affiliate branch of the College of Science Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT).
2. Opening of a Technical Vocational and Training Centre.
3. Opening of an On The Job Training Centre for referrals of On the Job Trainees (OJT)

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and recognise the tremendous work that the Ministry of Community Development has done and is still doing, to provide centres to support community interaction, skills development and lifelong learning among our citizens.

It is more important than ever, given the challenges we face, that Government deliver such community facilities so as **to meet local needs in an effective and practical way.**

To my constituents I implore you to make full use of this facility and have pride in it by keeping it clean.

In conclusion, I want to congratulate everybody associated with this new project and to wish you all every success in the future.

May God continue to bless all of you and may God continue to bless our nation especially as we celebrate our Golden Independence this year.

I thank you.

March 12, 2012