

MEDIA RELEASE

April 23, 2024

Planned eviction at Vieux Fort, St. James

The Trinidad and Tobago Housing Development Corporation (HDC) is continuing its debt-collection drive to recover monies owed to the Corporation and reclaim affordable units for those most in need of Government-subsidised housing.

To this end, the HDC conducted an eviction exercise at the Vieux Fort Housing Development in St. James on Tuesday, April 23, 2024. The eviction was done in the presence of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) to prevent any untoward incidents.

Tenants were evicted from three units at the Vieux Fort Housing Development for non-payment of their monthly instalments, and resulting arrears. It must be noted that these tenants were pre-warned about the eviction on **Monday, April 19, 2024**, during which time, officials from the HDC encouraged them to make payments to their accounts. Prior to this, in **October 2023**, arrears letters were dispatched to the residents advising them of their outstanding debts. In **November 2023**, those who failed to respond to the letters were issued Notices to Quit (NTQ)- these are Notices given to registered tenants who are in breach of their respective agreements. The deadline given to residents to respond to the NTQ was **December 2023**.

In **March 2024**, those persons who failed to respond to the NTQs served in November 2023 were issued letters dated February 2024 and served with NTQs to vacate the units on or before **March 31, 2024**. As at **April 23, 2024**, 39 persons failed to respond to any of the dispatched correspondence including those occupying the three units that have been evicted.

The HDC's Debt-collection Drive is ongoing and will continue in several housing developments across the country including:

- 1) Chaconia Crescent Housing Development, Diego Martin
- 2) Cypress Hills Housing Development, Union Hall, San Fernando
- 3) Hilltop Villas Housing Development, Malick
- 4) Real Spring Housing Development, Valsayn

The core mandate of the HDC is to provide affordable housing solutions to low and middle-income families who rely on the state for assistance and intervention. While the HDC strives to provide Government-subsidised homes for all its citizens, it must honour its duty to provide shelter for those most deserving citizens.

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