

MEDIA RELEASE

January 15, 2024

HDC to conduct remedial works at Trestrail Lands

The Trinidad and Tobago Housing Development Corporation (HDC) continues to be cognisant of the concerns of all of its housing beneficiaries allocated units at the Trestrail construction site, which is subject to its construction contract with Ricky Raghunanan Construction Limited.

The HDC is in the process of exploring all legal options available to secure the most timely and cost-effective remedy to what it considers to be a significant breach of the contract terms by the contractor. In the interim, the HDC extends its assurance to all stakeholders of its commitment to honouring its obligations to its housing beneficiaries through the completion of the sale of housing units or the facilitation of refunds of monies paid, where appropriate.

The HDC will now conduct extensive remedial works under the supervision of CEP, the independent construction consultant that was hired by the HDC to assess the work done by the contractor. Minister of Housing and Urban Development Camille Robinson-Regis views this as the most feasible option as this ensures the HDC fulfils its mandate to clients who were guaranteed homes in the Trestrail D'Abadie area. The Line Minister believes this is a positive step in bringing this unfortunate matter to a close.

In November 2022, owing to the issues with the construction of the units, the HDC wrote to all potential buyers of units in Trestrail Lands, D'Abadie informing them that there were still remedial construction works to be conducted on-site, which resulted in continued delays in completion. These letters were preceded by an initial notice of construction issues sent to all clients in June of the same year.

The HDC acknowledged the delay and inconvenience caused especially given that clients had deposited 5% of the cost of the unit in some cases, and the difference in the cost of the unit and the amount for which they qualified, in other cases. As such, the HDC gave clients three options:

- 1) To be given first preference at the Corporation's next and newest development within the vicinity of D'Abadie, Arima
- 2) To rescind the existing Agreement for Sale and be refunded the Deposit paid therein, thus resulting in an automatic re-entry into the "awaiting allocation" pool
- 3) Extension of the completion date Under Clause 4 of the Agreement for Sale. However, clients were advised that should they choose this option, time shall not be of the essence since the HDC could not guarantee the actual completion date of the premises



Most clients opted to await placement in the development although they were informed that the HDC could not provide a definite timeline for the works to be completed. Sixteen clients accepted refunds and to date, three are awaiting their payment. The HDC is currently in the process of paying the remaining three clients.

Works on the site will begin in February 2024. The HDC, again, apologises to its clients for this matter and the length of time it took to be resolved. The HDC remains committed to its mandate to supply affordable and quality rental home-ownership opportunities by building safe communities for the families we serve, thereby improving the quality of life for residents.

END

