

MEDIA RELEASE

August 12, 2024

HDC addresses misinformation regarding its Eviction exercise in San Fernando

The Trinidad and Tobago Housing Development Corporation (HDC) notes with great concern the misinformation circulating in mainstream and social media, regarding an eviction exercise conducted on Thursday, August 8, 2024.

It must be noted that no demolition has taken place at the site. Notices were served to unlawful occupants on Monday, July 22, 2024, with the expectation that those with legitimate claims of tenure would provide written evidence. To date, no proof of tenure and/or official documents have been submitted to the HDC to legitimise their claims.

On Thursday, August 8, 2024, those unlawful occupants served on Monday, July 22, 2024, within the old Ministry of Works and Transport building located at Rushworth Street Extension, San Fernando, were evicted. Occupants residing at Steve Achaiba Street, San Fernando were also evicted from their structures, however, the HDC was informed on Friday, August 9, 2024, that they had re-entered their respective buildings due to claims to having Land Titles.

In an effort to ascertain the accuracy of these claims, HDC officials conducted a site visit today Monday, August 12, 2024, and observed that no structures were demolished. Contrary to news reports, the unlawful occupants had re-entered their former structures since last Thursday.

This Rushworth Street site is intended for a new housing development in which affordable houses will be constructed for citizens. The building occupied by the residents posed a health hazard as the roofs contained significant levels of asbestos. As such, the building is to be demolished in accordance with all Health, Safety, Security and the Environment (HSSE) protocols.

The HDC had made efforts to relocate those unlawful occupants, and shall now seek to re-engage them, in conjunction with the Land Settlement Agency (LSA), to provide a safer and more comfortable alternative.

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