

PENAL/DEBE

REGIONAL CORPORATION



Gateway to Progress

Vision

"To become the beacon region, so unique that it is the preferred place for people to live, conduct business and socialize"

Mission

"To Provide the Services that our burgesses require so that it is the best living and working environment to achieve and sustain social and economic prosperity"

Members of Council of The Penal/Debe Regional Corporation Term 2013-2016



Standing from left:

Councillor Vishnu Ramlakhan, Alderman Champa Ramnath, Vice Chairman Roland Hall, Councillor Diptee Ramnath, Councillor Sheldon Lal, Councillor Vijay Rampersad, Alderman Aazam Piprawala, Alderman Bhagwandeen Ramkarran, Councilor Brian Julien, Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh Seated front row from left:

Councillor Marsha Jaimungal-Khan, Chairman Premchand Sookoo, Councillor Shanty Boodram



The Hon. Mr. Franklin Khan, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government

Foreword



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

The People's National Movement (PNM) in its 2015 election manifesto signaled its intention to remove all of the red tape and bureaucracy that prevent local government bodies from doing their work in an effective and efficient manner.

That manifesto promise has now become Government policy and so the mandate of the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government is to give local authorities the statutory power to respond autonomously and creatively to the demands of their communities. This will be done by developing and establishing institutional structures, systems and processes at the Local Government level which can facilitate more effective and higher quality service delivery, viable sustainable communities and balanced regional development.

The reforms envisaged will give communities the capacity to hold their Councils accountable for the actions taken on their behalf. The new legislation will also set the stage for viable privatepublic partnerships. As power is devolved away from the current Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government, the latter portfolio will find its rightful place in decentralized local government authorities. The former will focus its efforts and resources on rolling out a threepronged rural development policy focused on rural transportation, rural banking and rural housing.

Our towns face a number of economic, environmental, social and cultural challenges. Steps are being taken to address the issue of affordability of housing, access to economic opportunities and other sustainability challenges. The Penal/ Debe municipality is well poised to harness the potential of its bustling business centre, expanses of rural land and livelihoods, as well as tourist attractions including the Digity Mud Volcano and the popular "doubles stretch".

We believe that every Council has a leadership role in its community that is integral to further economic growth and a sustainable future. Councils should not be dismissed as mere providers of local goods and services, but rather, as local democracies which play a key role in the overall governance of this country. In the new vision for local governance, Councils are seen as the shakers" who make policy decisions, while residents are the "movers" who make these decisions happen.

From December 2015 to April 2016, I travelled all across the country hosting public consultations in collaboration with the 14 Municipal Corporations; a consultation with the Chief Secretary and technocrats of the Tobago House of Assembly; and a key stakeholder meeting with the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Local Government Authorities. I have been humbled by the vibrant feedback from the public and the overwhelming response to the winds of change. This vibrant consultation process is aimed at bringing about effective reform of the local government system as an essential component in people-centered development. Soon the Cabinet-approved draft policy will be presented to the public for comment and final feedback before laying the bill in Parliament. Furthermore, the local government elections which are due in October 2016, will be held certainly before the end of 2016.

The Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government shares the belief that local government should be given more, rather than less, responsibility and authority. As such, a reenergized platform for local government reform has been introduced.

In this vein, I salute the efforts of the Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation to open wide the gateway to progress for all burgesses. I wish you continued success as you embrace deep-rooted transformation and renew your commitment to better serving the needs of your residents.

I wish to assure you of my wholehearted support in attaining the ambitious, but achievable goal, of a modern, efficient and properly resourced local government system.

Chairman's MESSAGE



The Penal/Debe Region covers a land area of 246 km and is home to approximately 89,392 people. It is the sixth (6th) largest municipality both in land area and population.

The fascinating history of the Penal/Debe Region is reflected in its rich mix of physical landscapes and economics. Cultural practices that came with the introduction of Indians and Africans resulted in social norms and values which evolved over time.

The region's economy has been historically based on agriculture which became important when East Indian Indentured Laborers

left the cane fields in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and began the cultivation of rice, cocoa and other food crops in low-lying areas, surrounding the Oropouche Lagoon. However, in recent times there has been a move towards wholesale and retail trade, construction and the provision of services. The economy of the region can be described as transitioning.

The Penal/ Debe Region has evolved from footpaths to freeways. Over the number of years, we have witnessed the Region develop from train stops during the sugar cane production, to the construction of the University of the West Indies which began in 2012. A year later in 2013, the Sir Solomon Hochoy Highway Extension to Debe was successfully opened, to intersect with the S.S Erin Main Road and the M2 Ring Road, making Debe a key point and a gateway to what is commonly considered to be rural south Trinidad.

Together, these two (2) projects are transforming the landscape of Debe, from a rural village which until recently was characterized by poor infrastructures, such as; poor drainage and dirt roads, to a modern town center. Footpaths that provided access for tractors and bull-drawn carts through miles of cane fields, have given way to a new super highway that is making it easier to reach far-flung southern communities. This type of development can be described as intense and one that has never before been witnessed in this part of the island.

The development of the region in transportation infrastructure has formed an important part of this development strategy. The highway and accompanying roadways are expected to increase economic development in these areas. This will assist in the transformation of the Penal/Debe Region, from being predominantly agriculture based, to a service oriented and business focused area. Improved transportation infrastructure, inevitably brings increased investment and job growth in the area. Jobs have already been created in the construction sector and it is expected that much more will be created as more businesses establish themselves.

Over the past five years, the people of the region have witnessed major development done to uplift the infrastructure within the Penal/Debe Region.

Over thirty thousand (30,000) feet of box drain have been constructed. Recreation grounds have been maintained and in many cases, have been upgraded to now include jogging tracks, play parks and perimeter lighting. Deplorable roads have been paved, wooden bridges have been converted to concrete versions and box culverts have been constructed. Work has been done to beautify and preserve the region's beaches, picnic areas, volcanoes and historic sites.

With the recent extension of the Sir Solomon Hochoy Highway, tourists can easily access the Penal/Debe Region and visit the many tourism, heritage and recreation facilities the area has to offer, such as Palmiste Estate, Tomb of Louise Bicaise, Shiva Lingam, Statue of Sonny Ramadhin, Tulsa Trace Picnic Site, Digity Mud Volcano Picnic Site, Lamoshell Mud Volcano Site and Statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Sundar Popo.

Debe which is well known as "Home of Indian Delicacies" from as early as the 1950's, the Wellington Road Junction of Debe was becoming a famous spot for Indian delicacies; particularly doubles and aloo pies. Tourists and locals alike, come to purchase doubles, aloo pies, bhaiganie, saheena, kachari, amchar and a variety of sweets such as goolam jamoon, barfi, kurma, rasgulla and lots more. Around these modest stalls, a thriving community has developed from parlors to international food chains including Pizza Boys, Subway and Kentucky Fried Chicken (K.F.C).

The Penal/Debe Regional Corporation involves the community with their numerous celebrations of festivals such as our annual Independence Day celebration, Family Day and Cookout competition, Divali celebration, Heritage Week festival and their annual Civic Award Function. For the past thirteen (13) years the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation has been recognizing and rewarding its burgesses, who by their discipline, personal sacrifice and hard work, have both a claim to the region. In particular, those who excel in areas of academics, community service, sports and even the Corporation's retirees are given acknowledgement. In this plural mix, many pioneering stalwarts emerged, some helping to shape communities and even beyond, while others, added value to the work of their elders.

My Vision for the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation is one that includes progression and development. Our region is becoming more urbanized but measures need to be put in place to regulate its development, so that the negative impacts can be avoided. These include Traffic Congestion, Pollution and Unplanned Development. As a Council, we recognize that the vision for the Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation; should be in line with the Government's vision for Local Government Reform, in accordance with the ideals of empowering people, public participation and partnership with Central Government, Civil Society and the Private Sector.

Our long-term vision is to see the area become the beacon region, as stated in our Vision Statement, so that it emerges as the preferred place to live, conduct business and socialize. To do so the area must continue to be seen as safe and crime-free. We must continue to preserve the natural environment by adopting more environmentally-friendly lifestyles, and we are working tirelessly to reduce flooding through enhanced drainage initiatives. Improving the lives of all our burgesses continues to be the ultimate goal of the Penal /Debe Regional Corporation team.

May God bless our nation and all of us in the Penal/Debe Region.

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

wish to extend my gratitude to all members of staff involved in this publication. It is noteworthy that every activity involved in this project, with the exception of the actual printing, was undertaken in-house. This bears testimony to the inherent competence and creativity of the employees of the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation. I also commend workers at every level for their contribution in the success attained over the past fiscal year. It is noteworthy that projects featured in this magazine (as well as those which were not highlighted), could only have materialized through the hard work and dedication of our employees. Despite several challenges faced almost on a daily basis, the administration has managed to maximize the resources made available to us. We were able to surmount financial and human resource deficiencies, for example, and experience a fair measure of success.

Fiscal 2016 has also been a period where a great deal of emphasis has been placed on establishing robust systems to propagate professionalism, accountability, transparency, productivity, and excellent customer service. Again, I wish to thank the PDRC team for its understanding and cooperation at a time when so much is being demanded. Instituting positive change is never easy and while there is still a long way to go, I have every confidence that the Corporation will continue to grow from strength to strength.

> **Raymond Seepaul** Chief Executive Officer Penal/Debe Regional Corporation

of Department

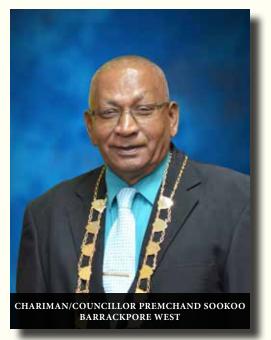


Mr. Vishnu Moonasar (Workshop Forman) Mr. Steve Heru (County Superintendent), Mr. Zaffar Ali (Road Officer II), Mr. Ramesh Roopnarine (Road Officer I), Mr. Victor Pustam (Public Health Officer), Mr. Nazim Ameeral (Engineering and Survey Officer), Ms. Aura Martin-Sealy (Corporate Secretary), Mr. Andrew Dipchand (Accountant)

Mr. Rudy Loknath (Planning Officer), Mr. Sunil Ramnarine (Road Officer I), Mrs. Sheriffa Heru (Administrative Officer II), Mr. Rishi Soogrim (Information Technology Specialist), Mr. Chaythnath Maharaj (Building Inspector), Mrs. Tara Bridglal (Clerk IV)

nt: Mr. Vishnu Seunarine(Personnel & Industrial Relations Officer), Mr. Zulficar Ali (Road Officer I), Mrs. Denise Baboolal (Public Health Officer),

Ms. Yuclan Balwant (Public Health Officer) and Mr. Ballyram Lalla (Municipal Police Inspector)



remchand Sookoo is currently the Councillor for the Barrackpore West Electoral District. He has been a Councilor for the past thirty three (33) years, earning him the title of "longest serving Councillor in Local Government" in Trinidad.

A proud father of four and grandfather of four, Mr. Sookoo grew up in Ramai Trace, Debe. As a young boy, he was quite involved in religious activities in his village and for the past thirty (30) years, has served as President of the Ramai Trace Hindu Temple. Because of his great concern for the welfare of the people and the development of his community, he was drawn into public life. In 1977, he was employed at the Victoria County Council and it was there he saw politics as a avenue through which he could lend assistance to the people he cared so much about. In 1983, he successfully contested the Local Government Elections and has served the citizenry ever since.

Over the years, Mr. Sookoo has provided yeoman service in the area of physical infrastructure, culture, religion, and social development as a whole. His goal has always been to bring communities together for their overall good. The opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation has enabled him to make a sterling contribution to the lives of stakeholders. He is noted for his resilience and the uncanny ability to work with others, and even in the face of serious challenges, maintains a sense of humour. His accomplishment as a Local Government practitioner is second to none.

SELECTED PROJECTS WITHIN THE BARRACKPORE WEST ELECTORAL DISTRICT

Upgrade of the Congo Village Recreation Ground

This facility was outfitted with a new turf wicket, a concrete practice pitch, perimeter lighting as well as improved lighting for the multi-purpose court.

Residents of Congo Village can now boast of a facility which can contribute to healthy living, recreation and clean socialization.

A project of this nature is seen as a major investment in improving the lives of people and building a stronger community.





Digity Mud Volcano

Located in Digity Village, Debe, this is a foremost tourist attraction in the Region of Penal/ Debe. This mud volcano's cone rises higher than six (6) metres tall and visitors are usually fascinated by its appearance.

This site was developed by the Corporation to attract both local and foreign tourists as well as to encourage recreational activities such as camping and cook-outs. Road access to the site has been enhanced and it has been upgraded with new washroom facilities as well as six picnic sheds.



Retaining Wall at Chitar Trace

This project has restored connectivity between two communities which were separated by a major landslip.



Digity Activity Centre

This Centre was established in 2014 and was designed to facilitate a variety of community activities such as religious functions, community meetings and vocational courses offered by the Ministry of Community Development Culture and the Arts. It is located at Digity Village, Debe, and has been quite beneficial to the several members of the community.



Lalbeharry Trace Box Drain

This project has gone a long way in alleviating flooding and improving drainage in the area.





oland Hall, Councillor, Vice Chairman of the Penal Debe Regional Corporation (PDRC) has been a resident of Block 5 Palmiste for over thirty-three (33) years, and a part of our country's political fabric for twenty-five (25) plus years.

Mr. Hall first became affiliated with the PDRC in 2005, where he served as an Alderman until 2010. Subsequent to that, he was elected Councillor for the Electoral District of Palmiste/Hermitage, where he has served from 2010 to present.

Mr. Hall is no stranger to serving the people as he is an active chartered member of the Rotary Club of Point-a- Pierre since 1988, holding the post as President in 1992. In addition, he is a former employee of the Telecommunication Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT) where he worked on the installation and maintenance of switching equipment for thirty-seven (37) years, retiring in 2005. He is also a past student of the Seventh Day Adventist Secondary School.

Y main purpose is to solve problems and pertinent issues within my electoral district. Although most of the problem areas are focused on the physical infrastructure, I enjoy working on people centred projects within the community such as, sporting activities and cultural groups.

I feel elated when I walk through my district and observe the changes made during my tenure, especially when residents express the increased levels of comfort they feel in once neglected areas. I must admit, there are still some outstanding matters to be dealt with. I believe that the proper coordination of relevant processes will greatly assist in alleviating most of the issues that are often highlighted. However, I will continue to work with all members of my district and try to meet the ever increasing demands in order to lift the standards in our community.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank God, The Honorable Kamla Persad-Bissessar for giving me the opportunity to serve; my family and all members of my electoral district, for their continued support".

Selected Projects Within The Palmiste Electoral District



Lamont Street Box Drain.

Residents of Lamont Street, Block 3, Palmiste are very grateful to the Corporation and their Councillor for having this box drain (150m) constructed in their community. They can now entertain friends and family outside because this drain has eliminated all the water that previously entered their property and undermined the foundation of their homes.

Quail Valley Kerb and Slipper Drain, Block 5, Palmiste

This project has brought relief to residents, as drainage in that particular area has significantly improved.



Church Street Extension Box Drain, Rambert Village.

Because of poor drainage in this area, residents were unable to properly access their homes. However, because of the construction of this drain (90m), residents can now live without the fear of flooding.



Dumfries Road Kerb and Slipper Drain

Dumfries Road is a main arterial road which runs from east to west through Rambert, Hermitage and Ghandi Villages. This project has brought relief to residents and motorists traversing the area.



Aileen Avenue, Block 4, Palmiste

The paving of this roadway along with the installation of kerb wall and slipper drains and speed humps have improved accessibility for motorists in the area. Additionally, the new drainage system has prevented storm water from entering the premises of residents, something for which they are indeed grateful.



Dumfries Road Box Drain

The project in Rambert Village has eliminated the nuisance of storm water coming onto the roadway and affecting pedestrians and motorists.



rian Julien was born and still resides in Monkey Town, Barrackpore. Mr. Julien attended the Monkey Town Primary Government School, followed by the Penal Junior Secondary School and then Barrackpore Senior Comprehensive School. Mr. Julien is a very well-known person and a respected individual in his community. He served as President of the Diamond United Sports Club for the past sixteen (16) years. He is a member of Angels Football Club and former member of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board and the Trinidad and Tobago South Zonal Football Federation. As Councillor and member of the Monkey Town Village Council, he has played a major role in assisting the community in sporting, religious, infrastructural and other activities.

fam humbled by the faith which you have placed in me to serve as your Councillor since the year 2010. It has been a rewarding experience working with several communities within Bronte, in doing so; I have learned the importance of serving humanity with love and respect. I am continuously inspired by the goodwill and willingness of the Corporation to partner with me in the community projects that we have undertaken together.

Road, drain, bridge and landslip issues have improved, upgraded and been restored over the past six years throughout the Electoral District of Bronte. Every year since 2010, we have jointly hosted sports and family events as well as celebrated festivals such as: Divali, Eid, Christmas, Indian Arrival and Emancipation days, which have all aided in the growth of communities and embracing of cultural diversity in the process. I am aware that we are still faced with many challenges involving infrastructural complications, but progress in areas such as; the pristine maintenance of cemeteries, which would afford an environment where we can sit in quiet solitude with our departed loved ones, have not been achieved. On the other hand, the upgrade of open and safe spaces for the enjoyment of our senior citizens, young mothers, children and differently abled was able to be developed.

I pledge to continue to serve the burgesses of Bronte to the best of my ability and be given another opportunity to serve as your councillor. My commitment has been steadfast and unwavering both as a team player with the United National Congress and the people of this beautiful region."

Selected Projects Within The Bronte Electoral District



Aussie Pavillion located at Papourie Road Monkey Town

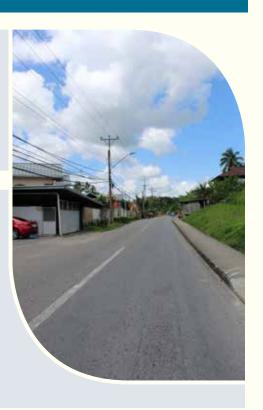


Bus Shed located near the Lengua Health Centre

Resurfaced New Colonial Road from Barrackpore to Borde Narve



Upgraded Monkey Town Cemetery



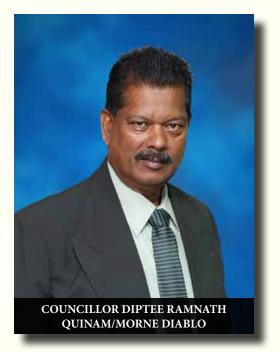






PDRC Workers involved in the contruction of Retaining Wall at **Assiah Trace**





iptee Ramnath, Councillor for the Electoral District of Quinam/ Morne Diablo, was born on January 13th, 1960 and resides at #46 Goodman Trace, Penal Rock Road, Penal. He is the Managing Director of Diptee Electrical Services which specializes in electrical and civil works. Mr. Ramnath has served in the Penal Debe Regional Corporation as the representative for the Electoral District of Quinam/Morne Diablo for four (4) terms, between the years 1992-2016. During this period, he was able to build a strong working relationship with community groups, religious organizations and sports clubs so as to bring about significant improvement in the lives of the burgesses in the area. This was realized through improved road and drainage infrastructure, better health care, education, upgraded recreational facilities. He has also been involved in harnessing the potential that exists in the agricultural and tourism sectors for the benefit of all stakeholders in the electoral district.

Quinam/Morne Diablo, for the tremendous support given to me over the years as your local government representative. Without a doubt a great amount was achieved in the district through the hard work and commitment from all; of course, there is a lot more to be done. I look forward to continue working with you to improve the quality of life, in making this region the safest place to live and do business."



- 1. HOPE TRACE BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTED.
- 2. RAMSINGH TRACE RESURFACED AND INSTALLED WITH BOX DRAINS.
- 3. SCOTT'S ROAD BOX DRAIN.
- 4. Moolchan Trace box drain.
- 5. MENDEZ VILLAGE BOX CULVERT.
- 6. Bridge constructed at Shrinarine Trace.
- 7. CONCRETE WALKWAY (WHEELCHAIR ACCESS) BUILT FOR ZEPHERINE THOMAS CALBIO OF SERRETTE TRACE.
- 8. Nagassar Trace Box Culvert.





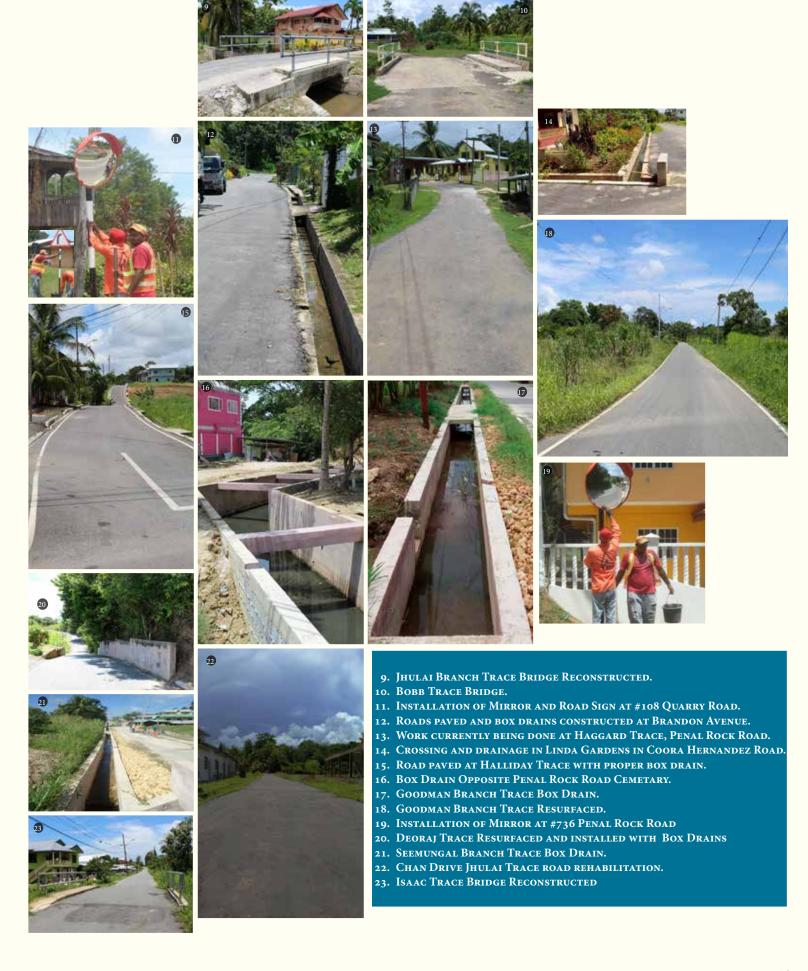














arsha Jaimungal-Khan received her primary school education at Canaan Presbyterian School, after; she attended the Penal Junior Secondary School followed by the San Fernando Senior Comprehensive School. Mrs. Jaimungal-Khan is married and is the proud mother of one. She has been a loyal member of the various sports clubs, temples, and community groups. Presently she is an active member of the Debe Police Youth Group. Mrs. Jaimungal-Khan is a fun loving woman who enjoys serving her community. She is able to bring her passion to the activities organized by the groups. It is a satisfying experience for her to know that she is part of a community that assists families in their time of need.

66 Peing a Councillor for the past six years, I served my community well. I've done work in each of my six polling divisions and committed myself to continue working for each of my electorates, to the best of my capacity. I am thanking all those who have supported me and I will continue to abide by my motto, "Dedicated to serving all" to the best of my ability."

Some Projects Within The Debe East/Esperance/Union Hall Electoral District





Resurfaced Pundit Street, Hermitage

The paving of Pundit Street within Hermitage came about because of its dilapidated condition. This project has been able to afford improved access to both pedestrians and motorists.

Stone Park Jogging Track

With the installation of this facility, members of the community can engage in healthy lifestyles through physical exercise and recreation.



Harripaul Village Box Drain





Kennedy Park Club House



Serenity Heights Play Park

This Play Park at Serenity Heights recreation Ground permits youngsters of the community to recreate while being supervised by their parents and guardians. It is conducive to family bonding and offers the adults the opportunity to enjoy the facilities themselves.



hanty Boodram is the Councillor and South Regional Coordinator of the National Executive of the United National Congress, and is a resident of Clarke Road, Penal. She attended the Clarke Road Hindu School, followed by Fyzabad Composite and Siparia Senior Secondary School. Mrs. Boodram has been part of the political fabric for over thirty (30) years. She has also been part of the Siparia Women's Association for over twenty (20) years; she served as the Secretary of the Constituency Executive. In addition, Mrs. Boodram contributed her time as the Secretary of the Private School Transport Service since 2006 and the Secretary for the United National Women's Arm.

She prides herself in being a wife, mother and grandmother. As Councillor, she has served diligently through collaboration with various social and cultural groups in the community.

Vorking together with the Member of Parliament for Siparia, the Honourable Kamla ' Persad-Bissessar, my purpose is to help resolve the many issues within my electoral district, by working with different Ministries and Agencies. I have lived in Penal my entire life and know the issues which affect us in our everyday lives, mainly; infrastructure, unemployment, crime and social concerns. Being an active member of the United National Congress since its inception, I continue to work with the various groups and burgesses in my district, to always meet their growing demands to elevate the standard of our community. As I meet with the electorate in my district, they enlighten me of how thankful they are about the changes that have been made within the community, since these burgesses were once neglected. Nevertheless, there are still many issues to be dealt with in the community especially infrastructural. I will continue to work and serve my district and in doing so, help solve problems that exist in your daily lives and bring relief for a better tomorrow. I would like to thank my Member of Parliament, Kamla Persad-Bissessar and the burgesses of the Penal Electoral District for giving me the opportunity to work together with the people to make a difference. As your Councillor, we shall achieve the vision of Penal and the nation for a prosperous Trinidad and Tobago, where all can live in peace and harmony."

Selected Projects Within The Penal Electoral District

Laying of Water Mains at Bobby Avenue, Ackard Village, Penal.

Prior to the completion of this Project, residents depended solely on truck borne water being delivered to their homes.





Bhupsingh Children's Playpark

Children in the Penal community are now afforded a public space for recreational activities.



Improved road infrastructure at Beckles Avenue, Penal



Upgrade of Sunrees Recreation Recreational Ground

Since the installation of floodlights, members of the community can now use this facility at night.



Installation of a bridge and box drains at Teemul Trace.

Residents are now able to more easily access Lachoos Road, Clarke Road, Goodman Trace and Dabiedial Road because of this project



heldon Lal was born and raised in Rambert Village, La Romain. He attended the La Romain RC Primary School and then St. Benedicts College, La Romain. In his early years, he was actively involved in cricket as an opening batsman/wicket keeper and a part time fast bowler. In the football discipline, he was an exceptional goal keeper. He has been involved in community projects through various Sports Clubs.

In 1987, Mr. Lal began working with the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission. While working there, he pursued various electrical courses and was soon promoted to Meter Reader. He currently holds the position of Acting Consumer Investigator. Mr. Lal and his wife has one son – who is presently enrolled to begin his degree in Law.

In 2013, after many years of dedicated community service, he decided to enter the political arena. Being born and bred in the La Romain district, he chose to contest the Electoral District of La Fortune. In October 2013, he was successfully elected as Councillor of the La Fortune District.

As a Councillor, he has fulfilled numerous requests from his burgesses and continues to do so on a daily basis. It is his desire is to continue working to bring progress and development to his area so that the standard of living of his burgesses could be improved.

It is my wish to see continued infrastructural development in all areas of my Electoral District. The area should be safe and crime free. I also envision continued development of the youth in all areas with academic and sporting programs of all disciplines. All persons should continue to live, work and play in harmony with each other so that team spirit and togetherness can prevail."

Selected Projects Within The La Fortune Electoral District



Woodland Recreation Ground Children's Playpark

This playpark was established to allow both parents and children to enjoy the facilities and in so doing, promote family bonding. It is advantageous in that parents can supervise their children while they themselves utilise the facilities.

Mungal Street Box Drain

This project has alleviated the problem of flooding previously experienced by members of approximately ten (10) households.



Seepaul Boulevard Box Drain

Prior to the construction of this drain, storm water seeped underground causing fences of home owners to collapse. This problem has now been remedied.



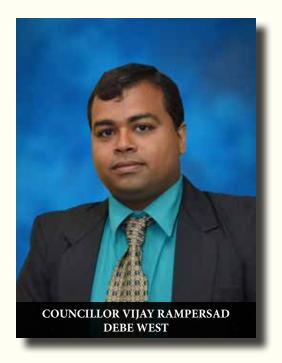
Sirju Street Drain

Lack of proper drainage caused extensive erosion to the roadway in this area of Rambert Village. This kerb wall and slipper has since alleviated this concern.



Ethel Street Box Drain

Surface runoff from the road located between Ethel Street and Bien Venue Presbyterian School seeped underground and affected the homes of residents in the area. This project has offered some measure of relief to members of the community.



ijay Rampersad resides at Raju Trace, Penal, and is the first of five (5) children to his parents. He received his education at Tulsa Trace Hindu School and Penal Junior Secondary School. He has been a businessman since the tender age of eighteen (18) and has been actively involved in community activities in the Penal/Debe area for a very long time. He and his family are heavily involved in promoting Indian Culture through popular programs like Mastana Bahar and Children of Mastana. He is the proud owner of the famous "D Rampersad Brothers' Ranch" and leader of the Rampersad Brothers' Orchestra. He is presently employed with the CEPEP Company Limited as a Field Officer.

66 Tam currently the councillor for the Electoral District of Debe West, having been elected as the representative, in the 2013 Local Government elections.

Through my hard work and achievement I want young people to be inspired and take the right path in achieving their goals. I encourage people to believe in themselves and their dreams."

Selected Projects Within The Debe West Electoral District



Tulsa Trace Picnic Site

Six (6) sheds outfitted with pipeborne water and electricity has been constructed for the benefit of members of the community to engage in outdoor cook-outs and other recreational and family events.

Sundarsingh Trace Box Drain

This project has provided improved road access for the residents of the area and has alleviated the threat of flooding also.



Debe Trace Drain (Narisa River)

This project has contributed to the reduction of flooding in the area.





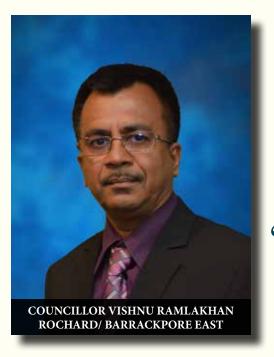
Singh Avenue

The resurfacing of this roadway and the construction of concrete drains has been quite beneficial to Members of the community



Raju Trace Box Culvert

This project was carried out to improve drainage in an area that is prone to flooding.



ishnu Ramlakhan is particularly recognized for his contribution to community and social development and for his involvement in the promotion of indian culture through his association with the Sawraswati Baal Vidyalai, him being a founding member. Mr. Ramlakhan works as a insurance sales representative for the past three (3) years and resides at Ramsubhag Trace Rock Road, Penal. He is married and the proud father of three children.

Lake this opportunity to thank the constituents of Rochard/Barrackpore East for entrusting me with the responsibility for the development and growth of our area. In the last three (3) years we have worked hard in improving our infrastructure and in fostering growth within our community. With the experience gained during the past tenure as your Local Government representative, I pledge to continue the outstanding work in a more efficient and timely manner."

SELECTED PROJECTS WITHIN THE ROCHARD/BARRACKPORE EAST ELECTORAL DISTRICT





Mohan Trace Box Drain

Charran Maharaj Trace Box Drain

Debie Trace Resurfaced



Debie Trace Box Drain

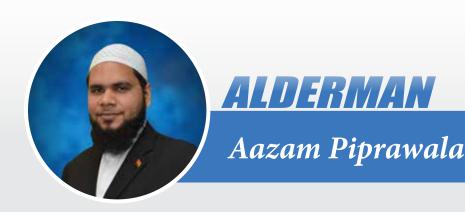




Satnarine Trace Box Drain



Rochard Road Box Drain and Box Culvert



azam Piprawala attended the Darul Uloom Trinidad & Tobago Limited School of Higher Islamic and Secondary Education, where he successfully completed his CXC and Islamic Theology. After completing his Secondary Education, he began advance studies in Accounting at Omardeen School of Accounting, where he was asked to serve as an Imam/Spiritual head of the Debe Islamic Association. The responsibilities as Imam and the demands of his studies at school were overwhelming so Mr. Piprawala forfeited his studies. He chose to commit his time to the duties as an Imam. Alderman Piprawala continued to serve as an Imam for over ten (10) years, while pursuing a career in Finance, Procurement and Public Relations. At this time, he is pursuing an International Diploma in Supply Chain Management, at UWI Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business.

I has been an honor for me to serve as an alderman attached to the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation since October, 2013. I feel that justice cannot be done in thanking the Councillors and also the Alderman attached to the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation, with regards to the execution of their duties. Every request that you the burgesses make in the region of Penal/Debe, is placed on record for the administration to execute. The way it is delivered to you may be affected, because of many factors such as; funding, materials etc. I do hope that good sense will prevail and the equal distribution of our great nation's resources will be distributed fairly and equally."

ALDERMAN Bhagwandeen Ramkarran



hagwandeen Ramkarran was born in the village of Clarke Road in Penal on September 25th, 1952. He attended the Clarke Rochard Government Primary School where he received his Primary Education. He then attended the Cambridge High School in San Fernando and the Victoria College in Penal, where he received his Secondary School Education. Mr. Ramkarran began his teaching career at Victoria College located in Penal. In 1975 to 1976, he worked as a clerk at the Ministry of Finance, attached to the Comptroller of Accounts Office.

In October 1976, Alderman Ramkarran was appointed as an Assistant Teacher 1 at the Clarke Rochard Government Primary School. In 1980, he graduated with a Diploma in Teaching from the Corinth Teaching College in San Fernando. In 2007 Mr. Ramkarran was appointed as a Head of Department at the Clarke Rochard Government School. He also acted as the Vice Principal of the said institution. Mr. Ramkarran later retired from the teaching service on the September 17th, 2012. Presently, he serves as an Alderman attached to the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation.

As a person interested in his community development, he gives religious discourses in many places, and he also serves as an auditor to many organizations. His vision is seeing the community of Clarke Rochard live as one family. To achieve the goal of unity as the Chairman of the Clarke Rochard United Cultural Organization, he ensures that everyone comes together to celebrate Eid, Divali and Christmas. He also assists burgesses to access government grants, those seeking employment, filling out tax returns, giving recommendations and giving assistance in general.



ALDERMAN Champa Ramnath

hampa Ramnath serves as an alderman at the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation. Mrs. Ramnath resides at Nancoo Trace, Woodland, and is the proud mother of three children and the grandmother of one. Being a wife, mother and grandmother fueled her into becoming an active member in her community. She started her social and community service at her children's schools, where she was involved in school activities such as fundraising and charity events. She joined the hard working Council of the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation on October 2013. There she shares her opinion and works diligently in making essential and significant decisions so as to enhance the lives of the burgesses within the Penal/Debe Region

ALDERMAN Hyacinth Rampersadsingh



yacinth Rampersadsingh, a former Councillor for the Electoral District Quinam / Morne Diablo and now serving (term 1) as Alderman has imprinted her name throughout her Community. She has studied at the University of the West Indies St Augustin campus, where she pursued a course in Early Childhood Education. She has been a part of the Penal Rock 4 Mile Village Council for the past thirty-five (35) years. She is currently the Public Relations Officer for Learning Together at the ECCE.

Her people centered work etiquette and humble personality has amiably warmed the hearts of residents in her area. Her stature grants her the ability to wholeheartedly serve the populace, through the distribution of hampers to indigent families, lecturing, group funding and development, assistance in poverty reduction and increased employment in the community. She has taken the task of upgrading her community through empowering and educating both the young and old. Additionally, Alderman Rampersadsingh's leadership competencies and willpower are evident in every task she undertakes. Undeniably, she has made critical and valid contributions at all meetings and serving, "people before self" thus assuring progress has transpired.

Training & Development

In its quest to improve in its service delivery, the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation (PDRC) recognizes the importance of capacity building and institutional strengthening. Training and empowering its greatest asset, its human resource, are viewed as critical in enabling the Corporation to fulfil its mandate towards its stakeholders. This has also been articulated in recommendations arising out of the Eighteenth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Municipal Corporations and Service Commissions. In its meeting with officials of the PDRC on Friday July 25, 2014, the Committee identified, among others, the Corporation's need to engage its staff in training in Human Resource Management, Leadership, Project Management and Financial Management.

Since this time, members of staff has been exposed to training in Computer Literacy, Customer Service, Supervisory Management, Team Building, Leadership, Motivation for Achieving Excellence, Public Sector Accounting, Project Administration, Project Proposal Writing, and Building Construction Technology.



Occupational Safety & Health In The Work Place

The aim of the Occupational Safety and Health Authority is to create a Healthy, Safe, Secure and Environmentally friendly organization. The objectives of OSHA is accomplished when the following is carried out:

- Eliminate all Health, Safety, Security and Environmental risks that exist or may exist within the sphere of control of the Corporation;
- Create and inculcate an Occupational Health, Safety, Security and Environmental culture in the organization;
- 3. Ensure that a sustainable OSH culture is cultivated in the Corporation;
- 4. Measure, assess, implement and audit all procedures in the Corporation to ensure that they meet and exceed the legal requirements;
- 5. Introduce a culture of inclusiveness and consultation when it comes to Occupational Health, Safety, Security and Environmental policy and practices within the Corporation.

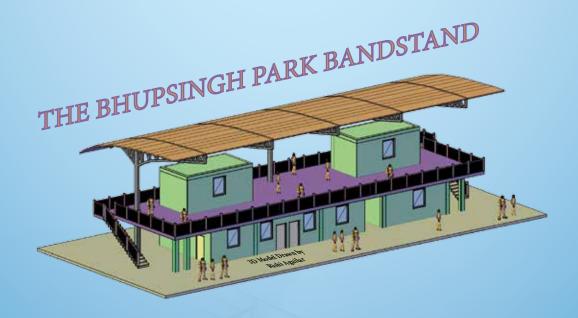
With the awareness of its importance, the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation has begun to address the issues at hand. Its employees have not only been enlightened through certified Occupational Health and Safety information and training on a continuous basis, but have (where applicable) been outfitted with the necessary protective gears and equipment. The Corporation has given the commitment to:

- Ensure employees are not injured or made ill by the work they do;
- Develop a positive Health & Safety culture, where safe & healthy working practices become second nature to everyone.



LAW AND ORDER RETURNS TO THE PENAL MARKET



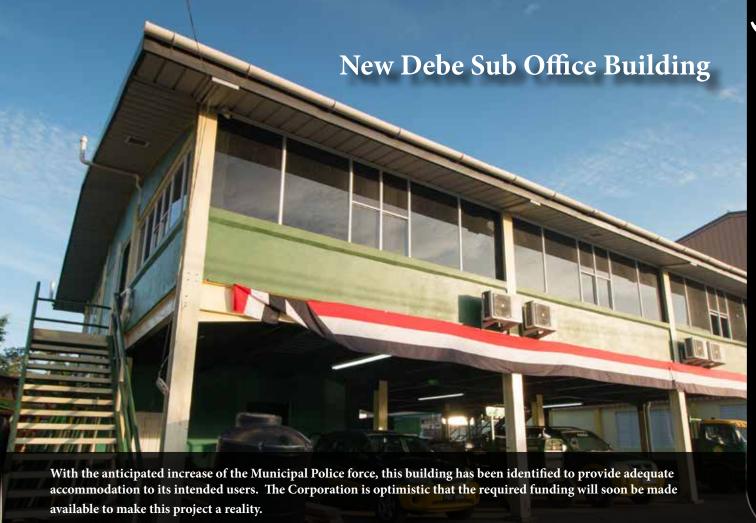


The Bhupsingh Park Bandstand is a project initiated by Councillor Shanty Boodram. Borne out of the Spatial Development Plan of the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation, the objective of this project was to provide a much needed facility for cultural and social activities in the wider Penal community. Such a facility would also provide a stage to showcase local talent and contribute to social integration in the area.

Construction of the Bhupsingh Park Bandstand commenced in 2013. Funding for this initiative came through the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP). Due to financial constraints beyond the control of the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation, this project has stood dormant for some time; however, construction has recommenced in 2016 and it is anticipated that its completion would be a reality in 2017.



Through the Local Government Building Programme of the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP), the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation has initiated the construction of a multi-purpose office facility to address spatial challenges currently being experienced. Utilizing lands acquired from the former Caroni (1975) Limited, this facility currently accommodates the Corporation's Stockpile. In 2015, the foundation of a building (30m x 12m) was constructed to eventually house the Transport Department, Mechanical Workshop, as well as the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) of the Corporation's Disaster Management Unit. It is the hope that financial resources would be made available in the early future to continue this project, especially in the light of the anticipated increased role of Municipal Corporations where the need for additional office accommodation will be obvious.



CIVIC AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence

Penal/Debe Regional Corporation's Civic Awards Ceremony has been recognizing the outstanding contributions and achievements of its burgesses for the past fourteen (14) years. Through their voluntary community service, personal sacrifice and hard work, these individuals have brought acclaim to the Region of Penal/Debe. Committed to improving the standard of living of its burgesses, the Corporation has recognized the importance of celebrating outstanding scholastic, cultural, and sporting achievement, as well as community service rendered by its citizenry. Through this initiative, it is the hope that the national community would be inspired and motivated to do likewise.











INFORMATION DESK / COMPLAINTS DEPARTMENT









PERSONNEL / REGISTRY DEPARTMENT



TENDERS DEPARTMENT

CHAIRMAN'S STAFF



CEO'S STAFF



ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT



Departments



MUNICIPAL POLICE



I.T. SUPPORT STAFF



LITTER PREVENTION WARDENS





TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

VISITING OUR HERITAGE SITES

he Region of Penal/ Debe was once the bustling and productive hub of the sugar cane industry. In keeping with the theme "Gateway to Progress", it can be said that the Region was the gateway to early industrial development in Trinidad, which ultimately led to the development of the area. Physical remnants of the sugar cane industry still exist to this day and continue to remind us of our culture and history. With a sense of nostalgia, focus is placed on two buildings: The Picton Estate Silo and the Barrackpore Number 2 Scale House. Even though the sugar industry came to an end in 2003, its treasured memories live on.

Barrackpore #2 Scale House

This Scale House once occupied the spot where the Barrackpore Market is currently located. In years gone by, farmers would bring their sugar cane to be weighed by way of mule or bison drawn carts. Initially, the scale was a derrick that was powered by mules but this was improved afterwards to a mechanical system with pulleys and hydraulics. After weighing



at the scale, the farmers' cane was loaded onto trains to be taken to the Usine Ste Madeline factory to be processed. The train line ran from #1 Scale located at Digity Village, all the way to #7 Scale at Usine Ste Madeline. Train lines from central Trinidad that also facilitated the transportation of sugar cane were connected to this southern railway system. Sugar cane transports trucks, locally known as "taskers" were used later on to supplement the railway system when production increased. This scale house was used to store documents, house scale employees and conduct office business.

The Picton Estate Silo

This silo is located in Harrypaul Village, Debe. This area was originally known as the Picton Estate. When sugar cane cultivation and production was going strong in the early twentieth century, such silos were used as a storehouse for animal food. The tops of the sugar cane stalks along with other vegetation would be cut and stored in these structures. During this era, animals such as mules and bison were used to transport sugar cane and people, and to power machines that were used in sugar production. There were other similar silos located in areas such as Harmony Hall and Petit Morne.







The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has recognized the urgent need to improve and develop our system of local governance. There is consensus that Municipal Corporations should be given greater autonomy and that the role of Local Government representatives should be extended. To this end, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development has embarked upon an initiative to facilitate the reform of Local Government. This

exercise is ultimately intended to meet the basic needs of the citizenry in a more efficient and effective manner. As a consequence, consultations have recently been held in every Municipality throughout Trinidad where all stakeholders were afforded the opportunity to comment, critique and recommend. The Penal/Debe Consultation was held at the Penal Secondary School on April 13th, 2016, with the Honourable Minister of Rural Development and Local Government Franklin Khan and the Honourable Minister Stuart Young being in attendance.



PDRC DEFENDS THE BURGESSES AGAINST ZIKA!

In the month of February, 2016, Health Minister, the Honourable Terrence Devalsingh, announced the country's first case of Zika virus following which a national Zika Awareness Campaign was launched.

This virus is a mosquito-borne disease that is mainly spread by Aedes Aegypti mosquito. About 1 in 5 infected persons become ill and show symptoms of the disease. These symptoms normally last for 2-7 days.

The Penal/Debe Regional Corporation (PDRC), in conjunction with the County Medical Officer Health Department of

Health Minister, the Honourable Terrence Devalsingh along with

Councillor Dintee Rampath, Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh and others on a

Health Minister, the Honourable Terrence Deyalsingh along with Councillor Diptee Ramnath, Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh and others on a Zika Awareness walk-about in the Quinam/Morne Diablo District.

St Patrick and Victoria and Insect Vector Control Unit (IVCU) of the Ministry of Health, embarked on a programme to raise awareness of Zika and to fight against this virus.



PDRC hired twenty-two (22) Environmental Evaluators and eighteen (18) Sanitation Workers. The programme lasted for nineteen (19) weeks, commencing on April 12th, 2016 and terminating on August 19th, 2016. Evaluators were trained to conduct effective house to house inspections to identify and eliminate the breeding grounds of the Aedes Aegypti mosquito. The Sanitation Workers were hired to clear water courses throughout the Region . Additionally, PDRC continues to carry out dynafogging exercises in conjunction with the IVCU in it ongoing fight against Zika.



PREVENTATIVE MEASURES THAT CAN BE TAKEN TO ERADICATE ZIKA-CARRYING MOSQUITOES

- » Cover all water storage containers such as; tanks, barrels and buckets with tight fitting plastic or wire mesh covers.
- » Empty and scrub plant pots saucers every 2-3 days.
- » Cut down and remove overgrown bushes they are a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- » Keep guttering clear of leaves and other debris.
- » Get rid of rubbish like bottles, tins, and coconuts shells; they hold water and become breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
- » Use bed nets that are tightly tucked under mattress for protection at night.
- » Use insect repellent that contains DEET as an active ingredient.

AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH (YELLOW FEVER) REGULATIONS, 2016

Regulation 27 of the Public Health (Yellow Fever Regulations) 1979 to Section 105(1) of the Public Health ordinance, Chapter 12 No.4 has been amended to increase the fine for a breach thereof from \$500 to \$3500



Plooding is natural and sometimes it is an unavoidable part of life. Floods are usually initiated by a Γ combination of events including the overflowing of river banks, coastal storms or blocked watercourses.

The following are steps that should be taken when dealing with the possibility of flooding:

- Know your flood risk.
- Make a flood emergency plan.
- Build or restock your emergency preparedness kit, including a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies.
- Familiarize yourself with local emergency plans. Know where to go and how to get there.

OBSTRUCTION OF WATER COURSES

According to the Municipal Corporations Act, Act 21 of 1990 and all amendments, Part VII (Streets and Buildings), Section 145:

> "A person who impedes the free flow of water in— (a) any ditch, drain or water course in or adjoining any street within a Municipality; (b) any ditch, drain or water course on any land into or through which water from any such street flows or any ditch, drain or water course under any such street,

is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of one thousand dollars and to a further fine of one hundred dollars for each day the offence continues after conviction."

In the year 2015, there were forty-one (41) cases of flooding recorded within the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation. All forty-one (41) households affected were assisted by the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation. The Disaster Management Unit (DMU) can be contacted at 647-2975 and the after-hours Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) hotline 511





USE PDRC'S RECREATIONAL GROUNDS

Recreational Grounds play an important role in communities as they provide an avenue for social interaction, sports and recreation. They offer the added benefit of facilitating healthier lifestyles as well as the pursuit of sport as a viable career for individuals inclined to do so. There are thirty-nine (39) Recreational Grounds under the jurisdiction of the Penal /Debe Regional Corporation. Twenty-nine (29) of these have been illuminated and function with automatic timers. In an effort to conserve energy, lights come on at around 6p.m. - 7p.m. and they come off between 10 p.m. - 11p.m.



In accordance with the Recreation Grounds And Pastures Act, Chapter

41:01: Recreation Grounds Rules, Section 2, 3(a) states: "The Council may "Charge a fee for the use of the recreation ground." Section 4 confirms that: "Applications for permission to use a recreation ground shall be made in writing to the Council for the County in which the recreation ground is situated."

Shiva Boys College, current leaders in the Premier Division of the Secondary Schools Football League (SSFL), uses the David Williams Recreation Ground in Penal as their home ground which is owned and maintained by the Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation. Other schools that use this facility include Holy Faith Convent Penal, Penal Secondary School and St. Dominic's (Penal R.C.) Primary School.



Back Row from left:- Yohanness Richardson, Chris Vialva, Dejon Blondell, Junior Asson, Tyrell Emmanuel Front Row from left:- Ryan Davis, Shaquille Williams, Judah Garcia (Captain), Ronaldo Edwards, Quinn Rodney, Matthew Beal

PROCEDURE TO OBTAIN USE OF THE RECREATIONAL GROUNDS

- 1. A letter requesting the use of the intended Ground addressed to the Chairman or the Chief Executive Officer of the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation.
- The letter should state the nature of the event, along with the date and time it is scheduled to take place.
- Approval is sought from the Council through its committee meetings.
- Upon approval, an agreement is made between the applicant and the Corporation, outlining the terms and conditions for the use of
- A rental and/or caution fee may be attached based on the nature of the event.

Services Provided by the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation

The Penal/Debe Regional Corporation currently serves the citizenry by providing many essential services. These services are divided in two (2) categories:

Non-Chargeable Products and Services

- » Construction and maintenance of secondary roads, and minor watercourses;
- » Scavenging services;
- » Development and maintenance of recreational facilities, cemeteries, markets, abattoirs and public conveniences;
- » Provision of truck borne water in areas not furnished by water pipelines;
- » Loaning of stage modules;
- » Installations of street signs;
- » Dyna-fogging to eradicate mosquitoes;
- » Rodent Control
- » Canine Control
- » Environmental projects such as the clean-up of beaches, picnic areas, recreational parks, volcanoes, and historical sites)

Chargeable Services

- » Sewerage disposal.
- » Renting of market stalls.
- » Building services such as: building plans, sub-division layouts, completion certificates and vault searches.
- » Purchase of cemetery plots.
- » Use of Recreation Grounds (subject to council decision).



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General Office:	647-0961 / 647-7012 / 647-2092
Accountant:	647-7058
Building Inspector:	647-0556
Chairman's Office:	647-0685
Chief Executive Officer:	647-3354
Complaints:	647-0444
Corporate Secretary:	647-4431
County Superintendent:	647-0231
Disaster Management Unit:	647-2975
Fax:	647-2186
Personnel & Industrial Relations Of	ficer: 647-3314
Public Health Department:	647-8622
Debe Sub Office:	647-8307
Municipal Police:	647-1020

Magazine Committee

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