



**Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**  
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

Level 8 - 10, Tower C,  
International Waterfront Complex,  
1A Wrightson Road, Port of Spain  
Trinidad and Tobago

Phone: 612 - 8853

---

March 3, 2024

**Media Release**

**Minister Mitchell: Lopinot Historical Complex to Create Numerous Economic Benefits**

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts entered a new phase in its development of the Lopinot Historical Complex. On March 2, 2024, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Senator the Honourable Randall Mitchell officially commissioned Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Upgrade and Restoration of the Complex and held a ceremony to mark the commencement of Phase 3.

Following the transfer of the facility from the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, and Fisheries to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts in July 2022, significant progress has been made through various infrastructural upgrades and maintenance initiatives.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project included the upgrade of the washroom facility and the reconstruction of the pedestrian bridge that leads to the Complex. Adjustments to the facility's physical features were also made to ensure equal access for persons with disabilities, enabling wheelchair access throughout the site. Phase 3 includes a substantial investment of approximately \$15 million directed towards the refurbishment of the Count House, Jail House, Cocoa House and the general Complex. This includes roof and floor repairs, replacement of windows and doors, plumbing, electrical work, painting, CCTV camera upgrades to ensure safety of patrons and more.

During his address, Senator the Honourable Randall Mitchell, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts highlighted the important role that this project will play in improving Trinidad and Tobago's competitiveness in the global tourism market, and in preserving our cultural traditions. "The primary objective of this project is to strengthen our nation's tourism sector by enhancing the quality of our tourism facilities and historic sites, thereby improving our country's positioning in Travel and Tourism." He also added, "The Ministry has identified the Lopinot Historical Complex as a crucial tourist destination with substantial positive social impact and considerable potential." He commended the Lopinot Tourism Association for their collaboration in providing unique tour experiences which attract a diverse range of over 60,000 visitors annually. "These tours inject considerable economic value into the community each year. This underscores the tangible benefits of preserving and promoting our cultural heritage. Upon completion of this upgrade project, we expect an increase in bookings at the site for weddings, photoshoots, and various events and of course visitors to our shores from global source markets," he said.

He also emphasized the pivotal role the facility will play in generating direct and indirect employment opportunities during both the construction period and operational phase, contributing to the stimulation of economic activity. He told the audience which included the Honourable Marvin Gonzales, Member of Parliament for Lopinot/ Bon Air West and Minister of Public Utilities; Councillor Josiah Austin, Chairman of the Tunapuna Regional Corporation; Mr. Dwayne Mora, Councillor for La Florissante/ Lopinot; Ms. Desiree De Freitas, Councillor for Five Rivers, heads of the various community groups and community members, that the social and community impact of the project will be far reaching, providing a space where the preservation of our heritage, the education of the younger generation and the growth of the community will remain central to its operations. Minister Mitchell noted “We are creating a space where youth can be educated and inspired to not only appreciate but actively carry the torch of our heritage forward.”

The Honourable Marvin Gonzales also gave remarks in his capacity as the Member of Parliament for Lopinot/ Bon Air West. He spoke to the holistic development that has taken place in the Lopinot area through various Government and community collaborations. “This historical site is not only important to the people of Lopinot but the nation, as over thousands persons regularly patronized this site.” He sincerely thanked Senator the Honourable Randall Mitchell for his support saying, “this is a significant investment not only in the people of Lopinot and surrounding communities but in Trinidad and Tobago.” When this site is fully restored there will be many entrepreneurial opportunities that will be made available for the people of Lopinot and environs.”

This upgrade project is a continuation of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts’ investment into the Lopinot community, following the Community-Based Tourism Initiative, which was extended to residents and business owners in Lopinot and environs in November 2022. Through a robust training programme, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) were empowered to enhance their revenue generation from tourism.



*Senator the Honourable Randall Mitchell, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts; the Honourable Marvin Gonzales, Member of Parliament for Lopinot/ Bon Air West; Councillor Josiah Austin, Chairman of the Tunapuna Regional Corporation; Mr. Dwayne Mora, Councillor for La Florissante/ Lopinot; and Ms. Desiree De Freitas, Councillor for Five Rivers commemorating the completion of Phase 1 of the Lopinot Historical Complex Project, which included upgrade works to the washroom facilities.*



*Senator the Honourable Randall Mitchell, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts; the Honourable Marvin Gonzales, Member of Parliament for Lopinot/ Bon Air West; Councillor Josiah Austin, Chairman of the Tunapuna Regional Corporation; Mr. Dwayne Mora, Councillor for La Florissante/ Lopinot; and Ms. Desiree De Freitas, Councillor for Five Rivers commemorating the completion of Phase 2 of the Lopinot Historical Complex Project, which included the reconstruction of the pedestrian bridge.*

###END###